

New Jersey  
Department of Education

Office of Assessments

NJ State Board of  
Education

March 2021



# Start Strong Assessment Summary Report

(Part 2 of 2)

Please note that this presentation has been modified from its original version to be more accessible.

# Purpose of Start Strong

- Optional classroom assessment resource
- Gather standards-based data
- A snapshot of support students were likely to need
- Featured a subset of the accessibility features provided in the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA)



# Optimal Uses of Start Strong Data

- Start Strong provided an additional data point to support curriculum and instructional planning during the fall of 2020.

**District  
Curriculum  
Directors**

**Teachers**

**School  
Leaders**



# Limitations for the Start Strong Analyses and Reporting



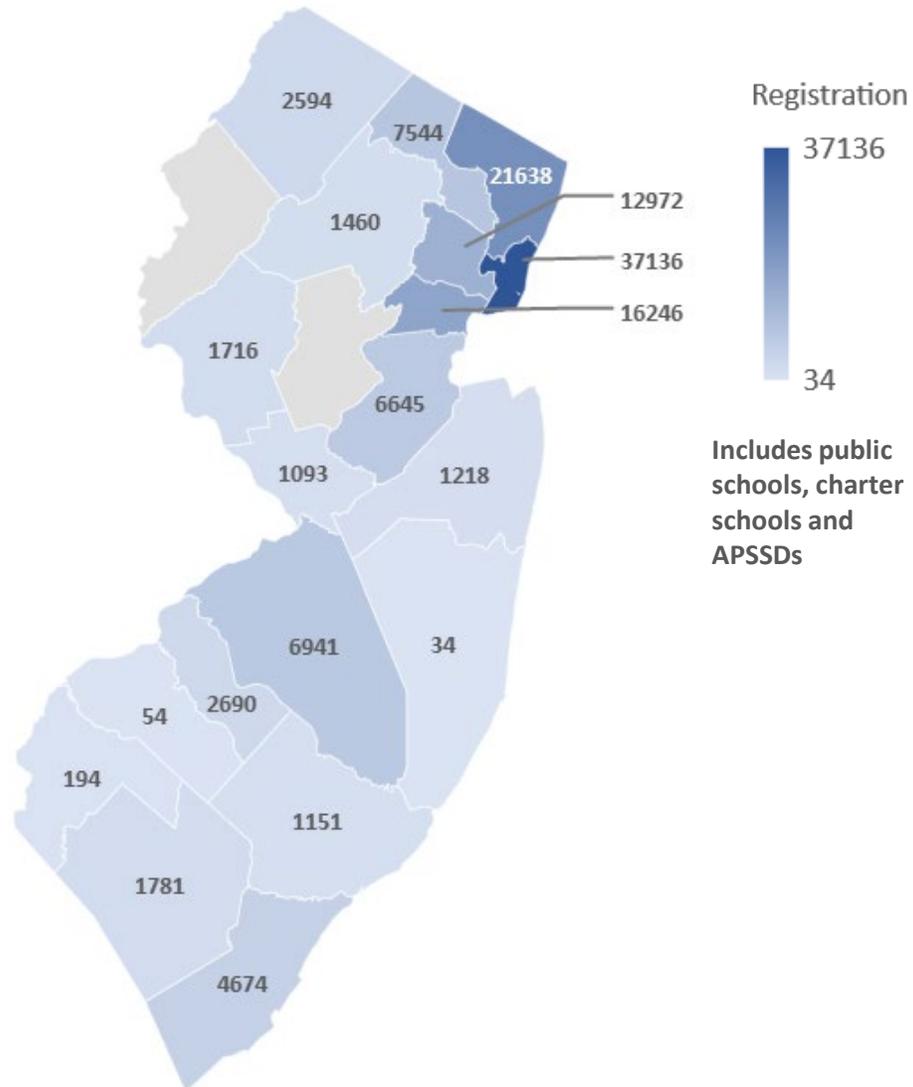
- The Start Strong assessments was designed for expedited administration. State level results are limited because:
  - Optional assessment
  - Sample size was small
  - Demographic information was not collected
  - Geographical locale information not available, i.e. rural, urban, etc.
  - Incomplete assessments, including those that scored 0 points, were included in level 1 – Strong Support May Be Needed
    - ❖ Incomplete assessments can still provide information at the educator level and were not excluded from being aggregated for scoring



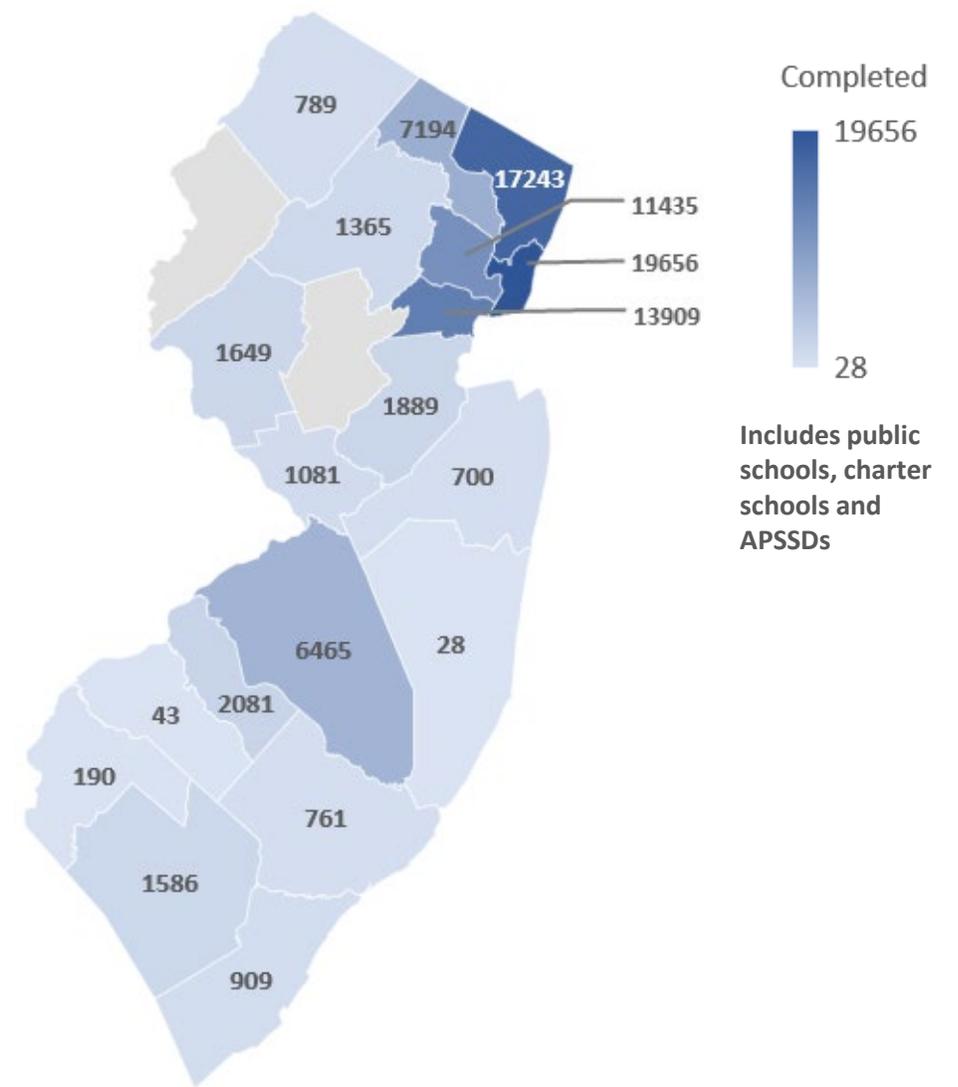
# Final Registration and Participation Data by County



Total Student Registration by County



Total Number of Completed Assessments by County



# Start Strong Assessment Support Levels *(slide 1 of 2)*



There are three support levels for the Start Strong Assessment

Level	Degree of Support
1	<b>Strong Support May Be Needed</b>
2	<b>Some Support May Be Needed</b>
3	<b>Less Support May Be Needed</b>



# Start Strong Assessment Support Levels *(slide 2 of 2)*



- The Start Strong Support levels span the summative assessment scale ranges from the NJSLA:
  - For ELA and Math, there are five performance levels for summative assessments.

Start Strong ELA/Math	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3	
Summative Scale	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5

- For Science, there are four performance levels for summative assessment.

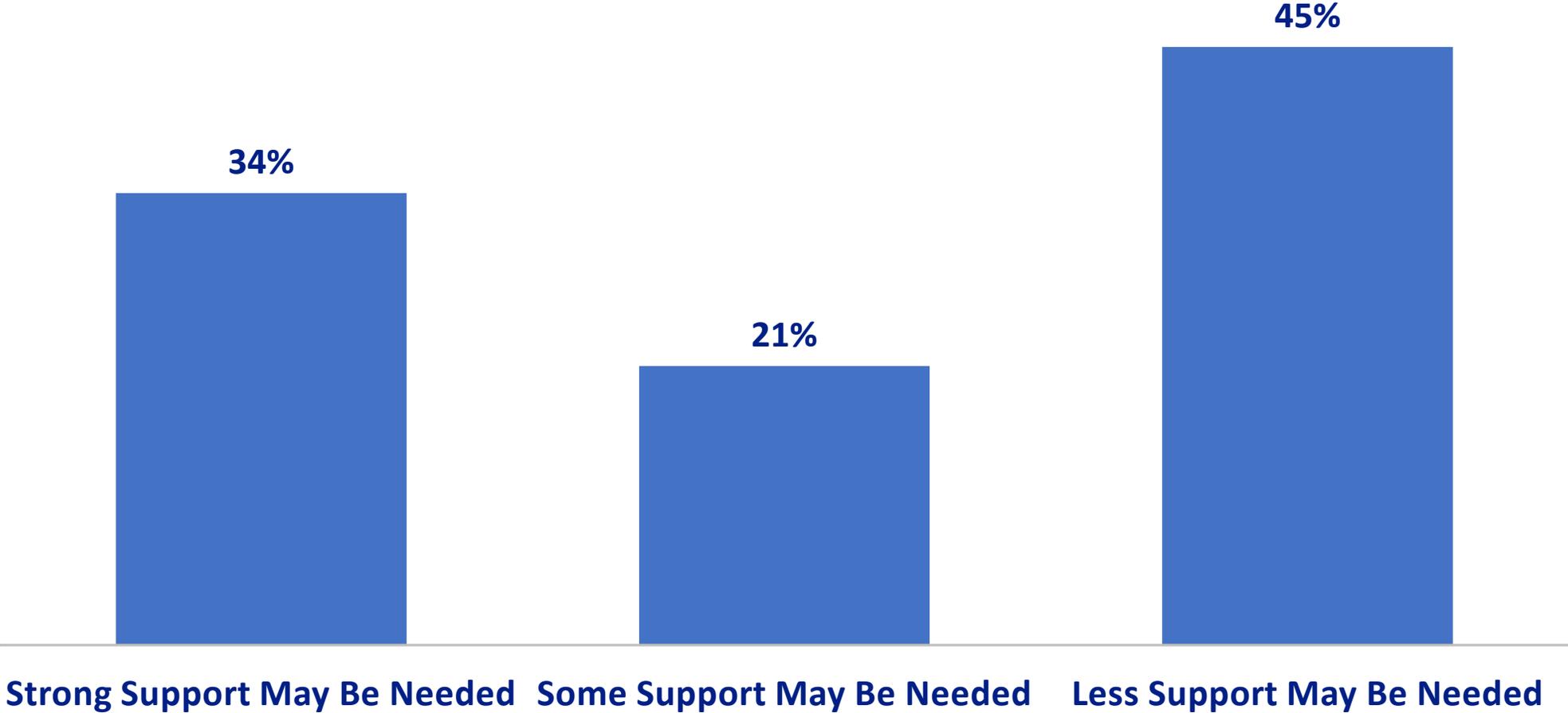
Start Strong Science	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
Summative Scale	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4



# Performance Data by Subject: ELA – Grades 4-10



## English Language Arts (ELA)



# Start Strong Assessment Results - ELA



Subject	Test Code	Completion (N)	Strong Support May Be Needed (%)	Some Support May Be Needed (%)	Less Support May Be Needed (%)	Completion (%)
ELA	ELA04	5201	41	21	38	5.2
	ELA05	5219	29	24	46	5.1
	ELA06	5813	35	25	40	5.5
	ELA07	5673	31	27	42	5.3
	ELA08	5706	39	19	42	5.3
	ELA09	4842	39	15	47	4.5
	ELA10	4923	25	18	57	4.6

Note.

Completion percentage is calculated based on the NJSMART Fall 2020 enrollment data.

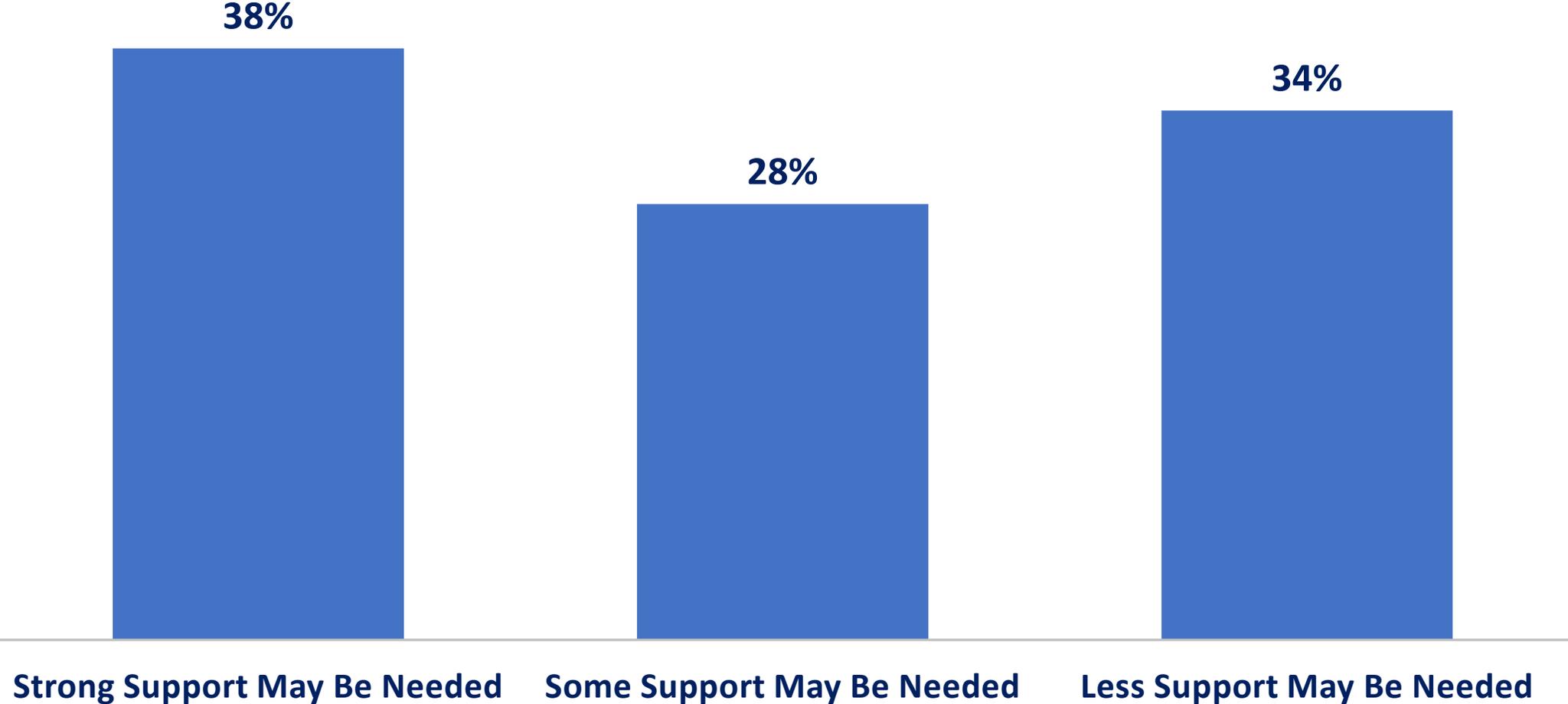
Start Strong Assessment Summary Report



# Performance Data by Subject: Mathematics – Grades 4-10



## Mathematics



# Start Strong Assessment Results - Math



Subject	Test Code	Completion (N)	Strong Support May Be Needed (%)	Some Support May Be Needed (%)	Less Support May Be Needed (%)	Completion (%)
Math	MAT04	5198	34	34	32	5.2
	MAT05	5182	45	25	29	5.1
	MAT06	5804	46	26	28	5.5
	MAT07	5425	36	29	34	5.1
	MAT08	4563	39	34	27	4.2
	ALG01	6036	39	26	36	5.7*
	GEO01	5213	38	26	37	8.1*
	ALG02	3784	26	20	54	8.9*

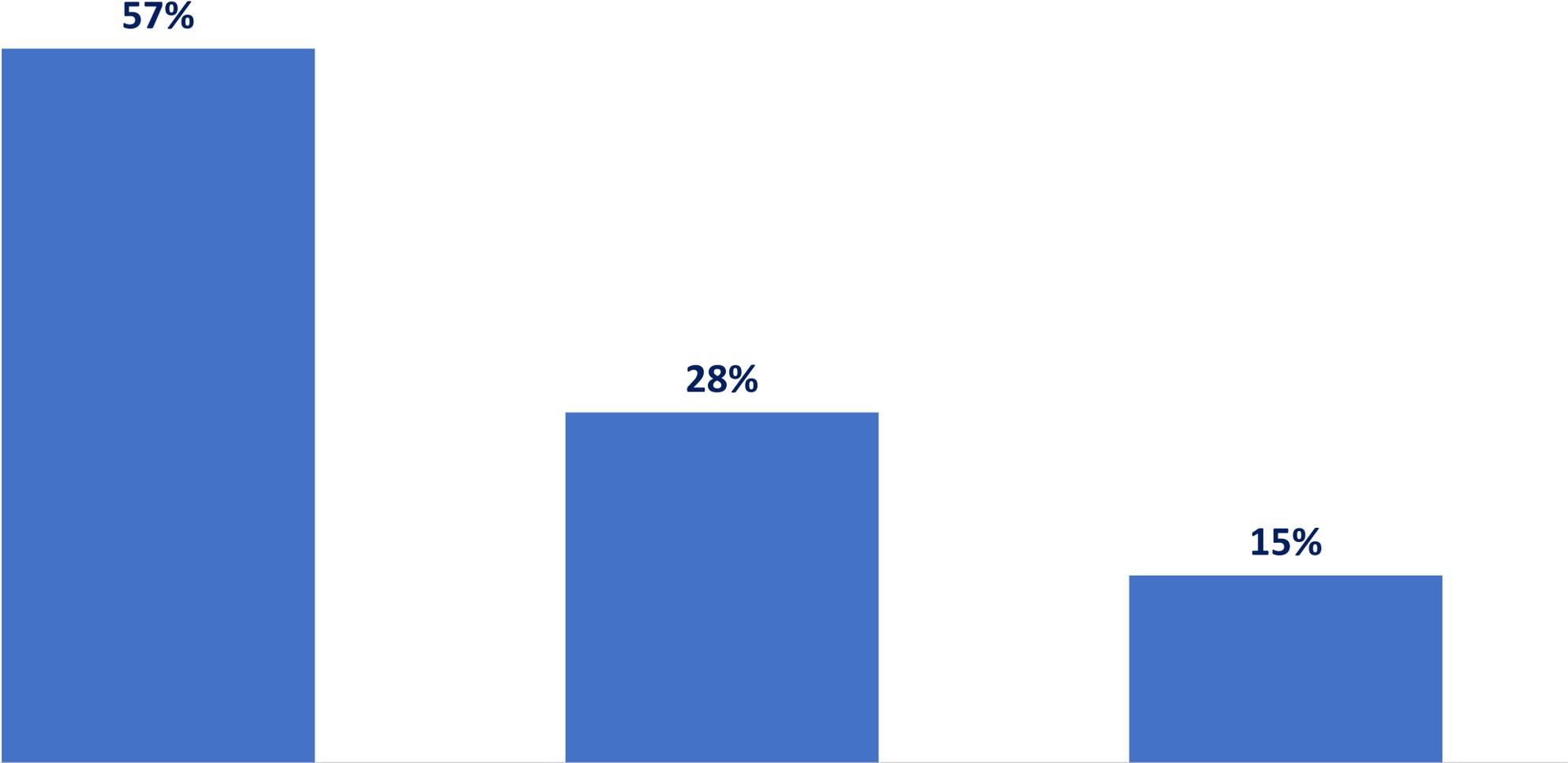
Completion percentage is calculated based on the NJSMART Fall 2020 enrollment data.

\*For high school math Start Strong assessments, completion percentage is calculated based on the NJSLA 2021 registration data.



# Performance Data by Subject: Science

Science



**Strong Support May Be Needed**

**Some Support May Be Needed**

**Less Support May Be Needed**



# Start Strong Assessment Results - Science



Subject	Test Code	Completion (N)	Strong Support May Be Needed (%)	Some Support May Be Needed (%)	Less Support May Be Needed (%)	Completion (%)
Science	SC05	5735	57	26	17	5.5
	SC08	4326	57	34	9	4.0
	SC11	1659	54	20	25	1.5

Note.

Completion percentage is calculated based on the NJSMART Fall 2020 enrollment data.



# Moving Forward: Challenges

- Setting accurate expectations for the interpretation and use of assessment results within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic will require our continued extensive outreach.
- This assessment does not capture student performance on the full breadth of standards.
- Collaborate with districts to increase participation in future administrations of this assessment.



# Moving Forward: Opportunities

- The NJDOE is looking forward to enhancing the statewide data system by identifying multiple sources of high-quality assessment data for educators to use to mitigate learning disruptions that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The NJDOE is looking to prioritize assessments like Start Strong and other formative and interim assessment options as they allow districts to collect timely, actionable, standards-based student performance data at the beginning of the school year and throughout the year.



# Moving Forward: Opportunities continued

- The NJDOE is focused on resources for educators that promote acceleration in lieu of remediation to ensure that all students have access to high quality, standards-aligned, grade-level instruction.
- Start Strong will complement the NJDOE's educator-created NJSLS resources such as the instructional units and focus standards work.
- The assessment enhancements coincide with the NJDOE's holistic approach to focusing first on the health, safety and wellness of students and then focusing on providing students targeted and individualized supports in critical subject areas such as math and science.



# Thank You

[New Jersey Department of Education Website](http://www.nj.gov/education)

[www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)

[assessment@doe.nj.gov](mailto:assessment@doe.nj.gov)

[Office of Assessment webpage](http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment)

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