



ACADEMY FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP | CHARTER SCHOOL

A Public School

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DR. JEFF WHITE
Chief Lead School Administrator

MAIN CAMPUS (9-12) - 612 AMBOY AVE., PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
BARCLAY CAMPUS (7-8) - 295 BARCLAY ST., PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861
TEL. 848.203.3742
FAX 848.203.3948
WWW.AULCS.ORG

September 12, 2022

Dear AUL Parents/Guardians,

The administration of the Start Strong assessment is scheduled to take place this fall as per New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) guidelines. As they were last year, the Start Strong assessments are intentionally brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders.

The Start Strong assessments:

- Are based on a subset of prioritized prior-year academic standards.
- Are available in ELA grades 4-10, Mathematics grades 4-8, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II, and in Science grades 6, 9, and 12.
- Can be administered in approximately 45-60 minutes.
- Will provide immediate results to educators through the assessment platform.
- Will include the same accessibility features and accommodations as the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), including forms in Spanish and Text to Speech (TTS).

The Start Strong assessments utilize three performance levels (“Strong Support May Be Needed;” “Some Support May Be Needed;” and “Less Support May Be Needed”) to aid educators and families in making decisions about the types of supports that students may need. The assessments are not meant to replace any preferred assessment strategies being used locally but can be used to complement existing efforts to gather standards-based data (local benchmarks, writing samples, assignments, homework, etc.) at the beginning of the school year.

Start Strong assessments will be administered in-person. All students, including students with disabilities who are not eligible for the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments, and English Language Learners, will be expected to participate in the Start Strong assessments.

Should you have any questions regarding the Start Strong assessments, please contact Dr. Swinford on the Main Campus or Mrs. Knehr on the Barclay Campus.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff White
Chief Lead Administrator

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