

Start Strong: Fall 2021 Administrations

Green Hills School

January 19, 2022





General Information

As determined by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration of Start Strong satisfied federal statewide assessment requirements to administer general assessments in english language arts, mathematics, and science only for the 2020-2021 school year. The spring NJSLA schedule will resume for the 2021-2022 school year.

- Designed to provide informative data to address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year.
- Based on a subset of prioritized year-end academic standards.



General Information

- Administered quickly, in person, and provided immediate results.
- Given to grades 4-8 in both Language Arts and Mathematics in addition to grade 6 in Science.
- Utilized three levels to describe individual student performance
 - Strong Support May Be Needed
 - Some Support May Be Needed
 - Less Support May Be Needed

Start Strong Assessments Do Not:

- Replace local standards-based benchmark assessments
- Replace the spring 2022 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) statewide summative assessments

Note: The test design, which allowed for shortened testing time and immediate results, means that Start Strong results must be interpreted and used differently than NJSLA results. They do not cover the breadth and depth of standards as seen on the NJSLA and do not support the same comparisons or inferences about student proficiency.



Results Interpretation Considerations

- Consider the impacts of COVID-19 on learning and testing conditions, as well as the impact on student participation in the assessments, which were administered in person in September 2021.
- Districts should not compare any individual student/school/district Start Strong data to any state-level data for Start Strong, nor should comparisons be made to any NJSLA data.
- Please note that the Start Strong assessments were not designed to predict future student performance on the NJSLA, nor was it designed to estimate what score a student would have received if they had taken the NJSLA in spring 2021.



Content Alignment Data

Content Area	SY 2021-2022	Content of Start Strong
ILA	grade 4 ----->	grade 3
	grade 5 ----->	grade 4
	grade 6 ----->	grade 5
	grade 7 ----->	grade 6
	grade 8 ----->	grade 7
Mathematics	grade 4 ----->	grade 3
	grade 5 ----->	grade 4
	grade 6 ----->	grade 5
	grade 7 ----->	grade 6
	grade 8 ----->	grade 7
Science	grade 6 ----->	grade 3-5

Start Strong Raw Score Criteria

ILA

Grade	total questions	Strong Support	Some Support	Less Support
4th grade	20	0-8	9-11	12-20
5th grade	20	0-7	8-11	12-20
6th grade	20	0-7	8-10	11-20
7th grade	20	0-6	7-9	10-20
8th grade	20	0-9	10-12	13-20

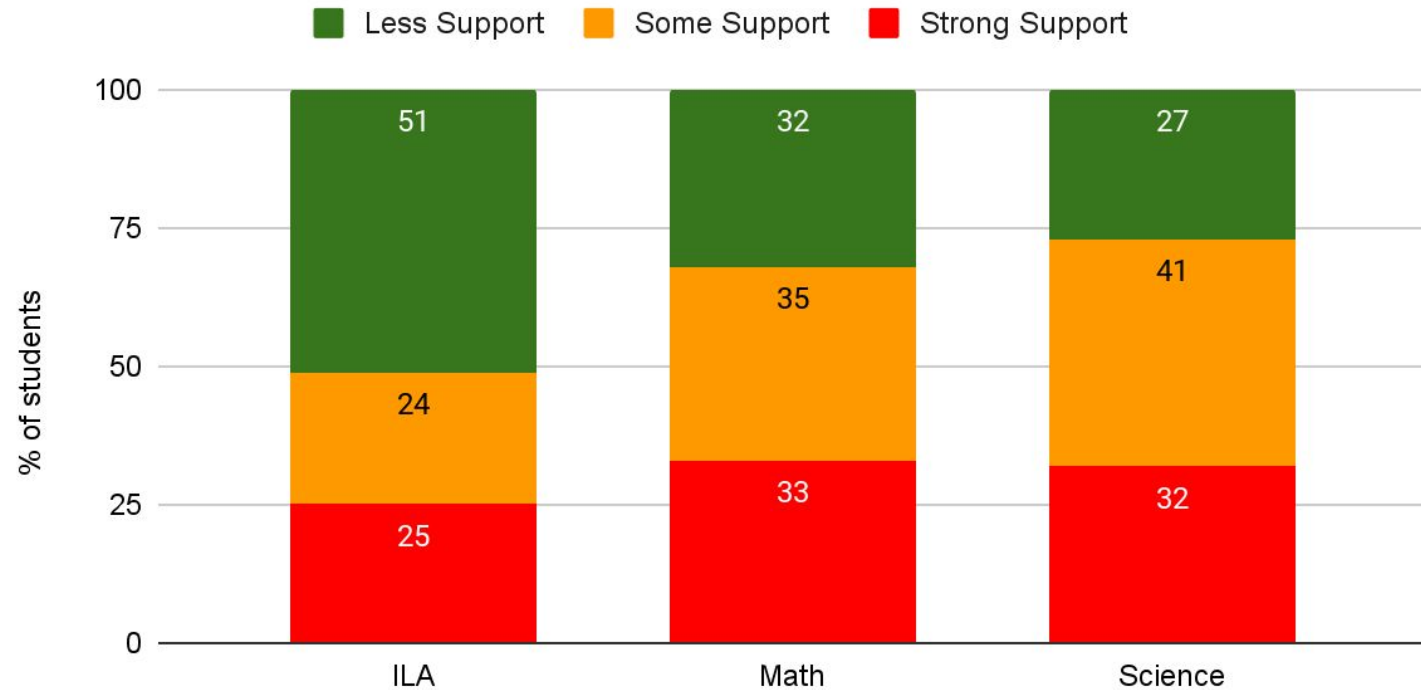
Math

Grade	total questions	Strong Support	Some Support	Less Support
4th grade	24	0-8	9-14	15-24
5th grade	25	0-10	11-16	17-25
6th grade	25	0-10	11-17	18-25
7th grade	25	0-10	11-18	19-25
8th grade	23	0-6	7-13	14-23

Science

Grade	total questions	Strong Support	Some Support	Less Support
6th grade	25	0-12	13-18	19-25

Support Level Reports Overall Standing for grades 4-8





Start Strong: Language Arts

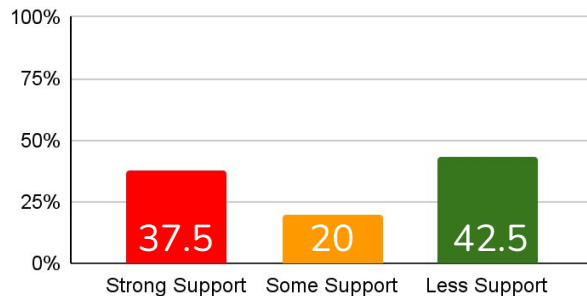
Grades 4-8

- Consisted of 10 questions with two parts to each question.
- Content was broken down into two categories: Reading Literature and Reading Information.
- Administered on Tuesday, September 28th.
- Approximately time: 45-60 minutes.

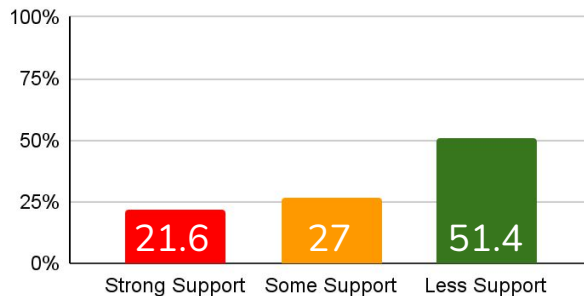
Start Strong: ILA

(overall results by grade level)

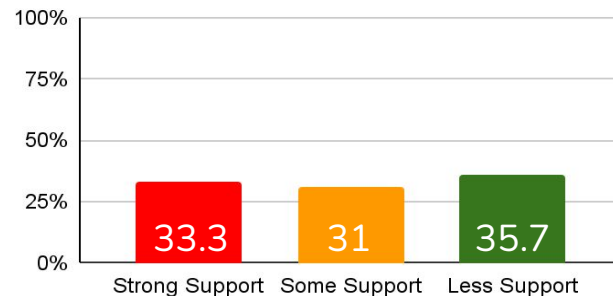
Grade 4 ILA (3rd grade content)



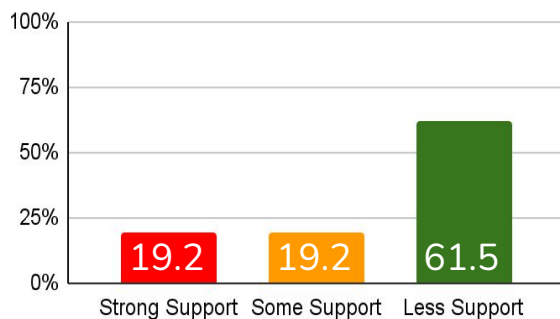
Grade 5 ILA (4th grade content)



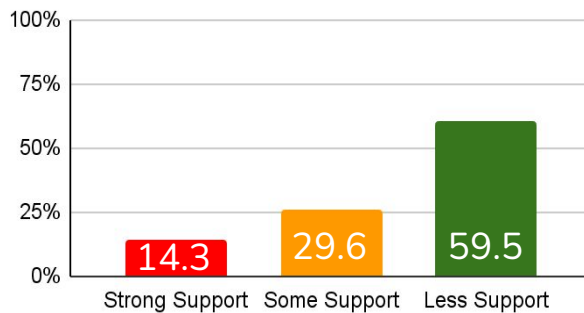
Grade 6 ILA (5th grade content)



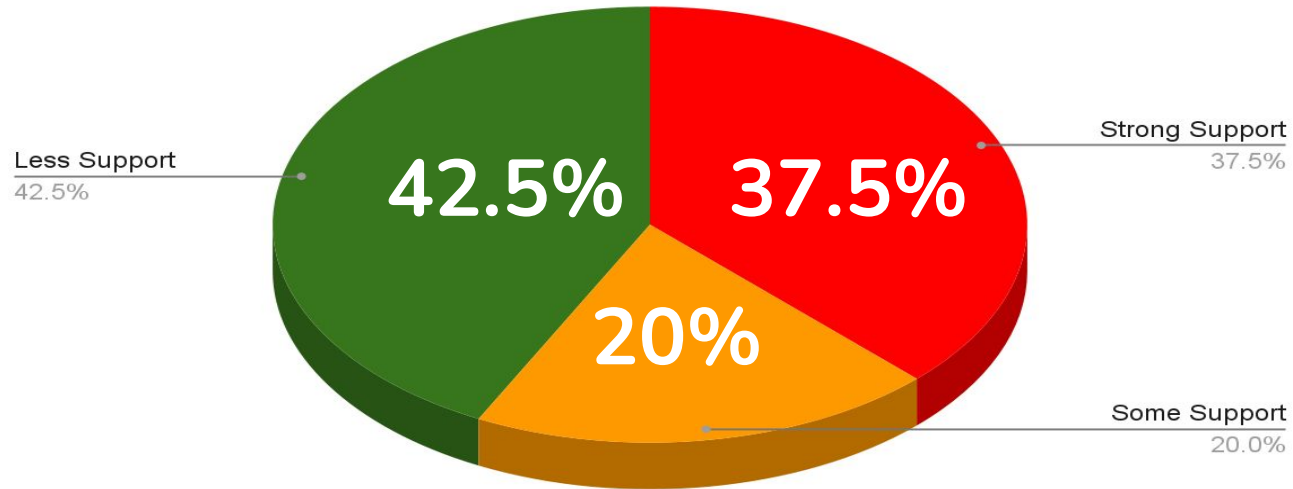
Grade 7 ILA (6th grade content)



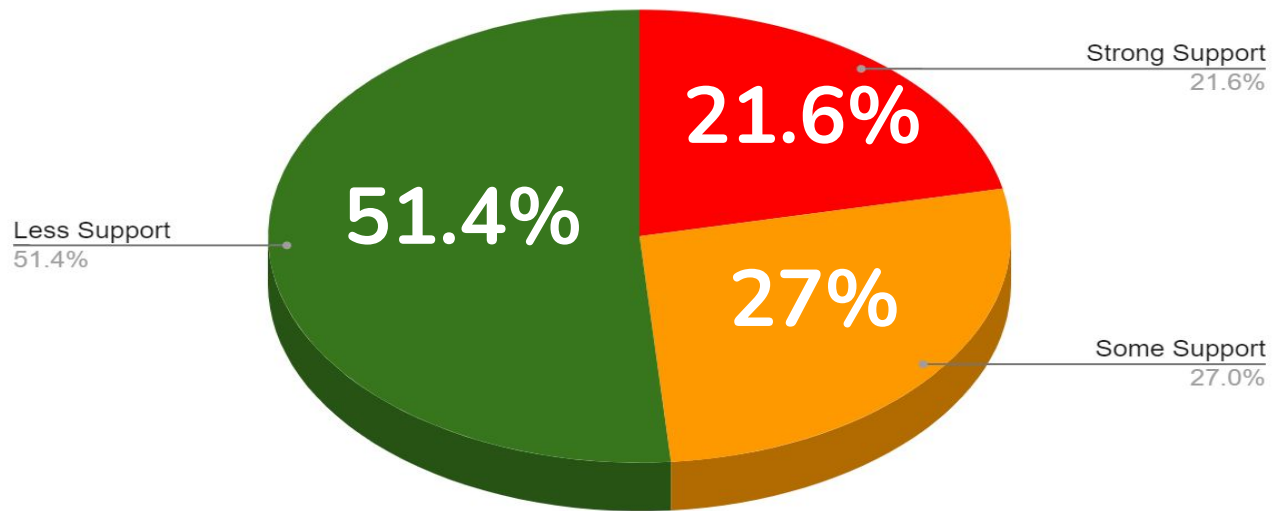
Grade 8 ILA (7th grade content)



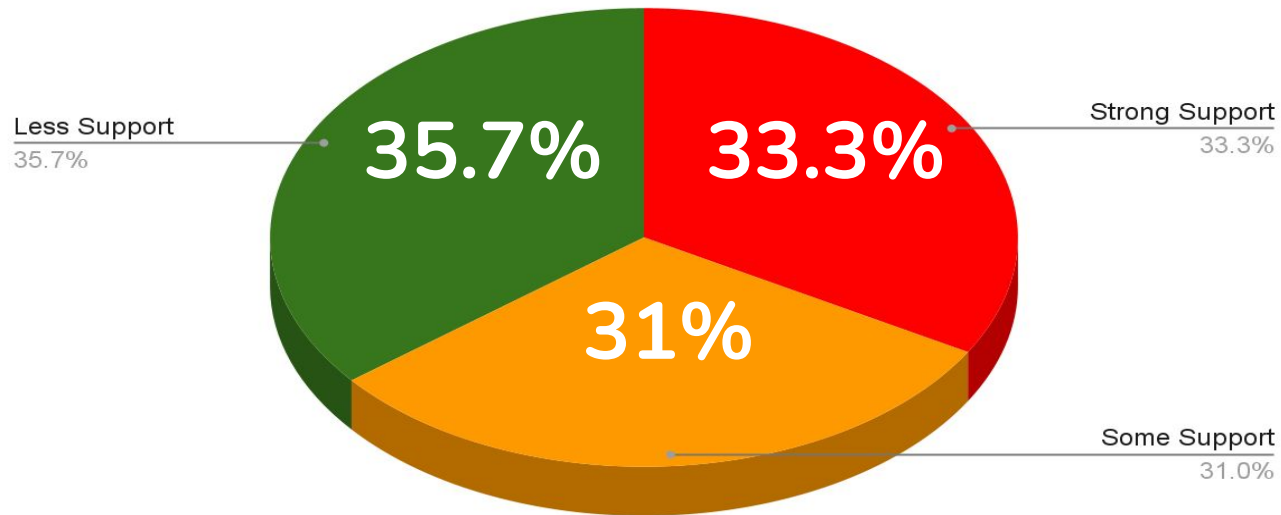
Grade 4 ILA



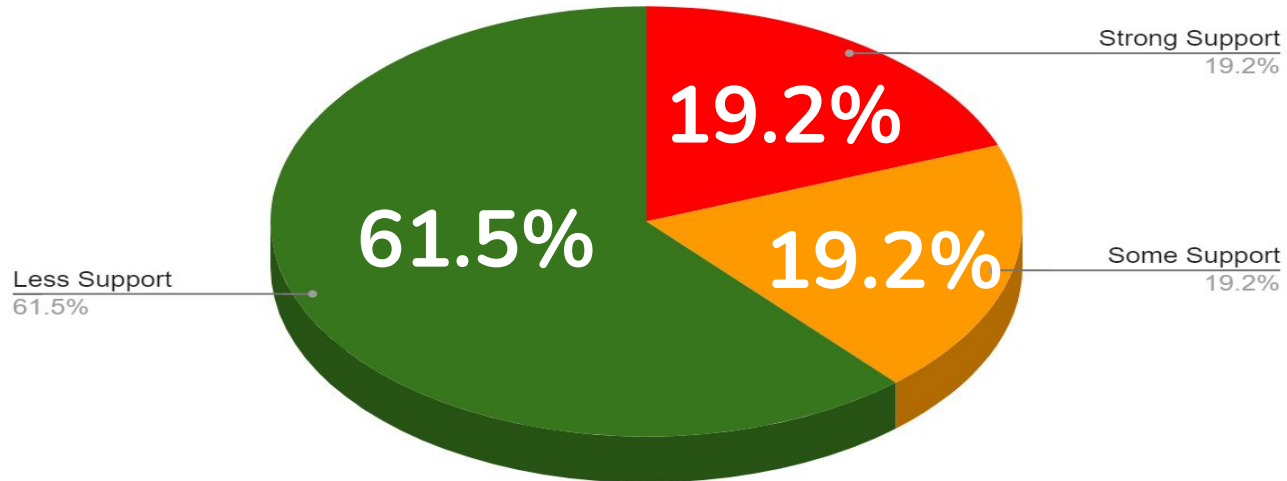
Grade 5 ILA



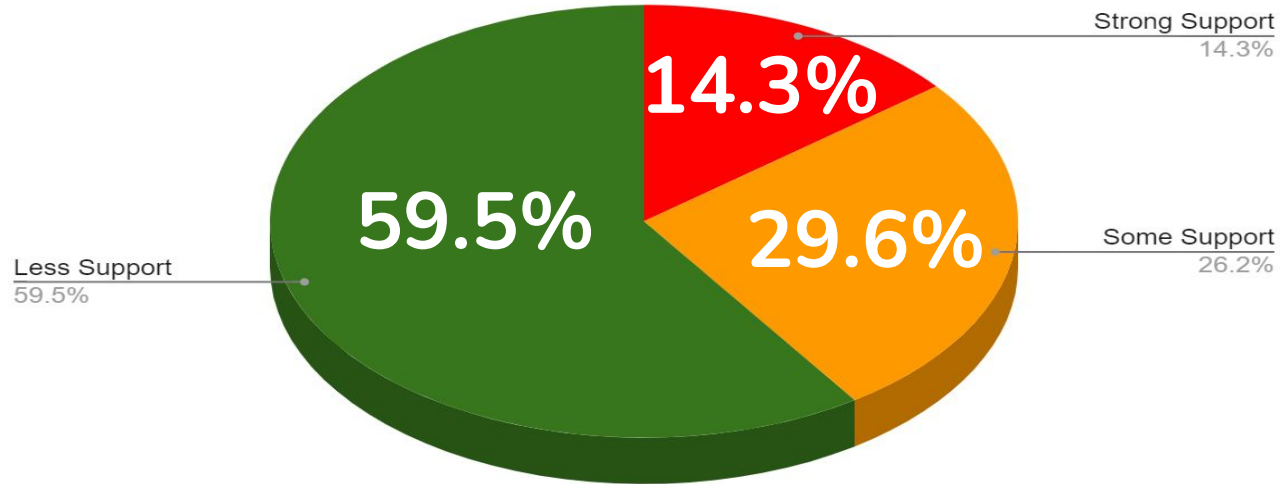
Grade 6 ILA



Grade 7 ILA



Grade 8 ILA





Start Strong: Mathematics

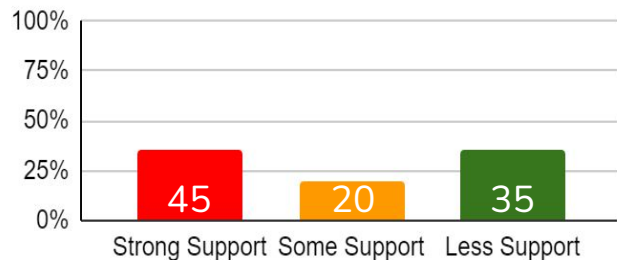
Grades 4-8

- Consisted of between 23-25 questions.
- Content included, but was not limited to: multiplication and division, operations, fractions, base ten, measurement, ratios & proportional relationships, algebraic expressions, and equations & inequalities.
- Administered on Wednesday, September 29th.
- Approximately time: 45-60 minutes.

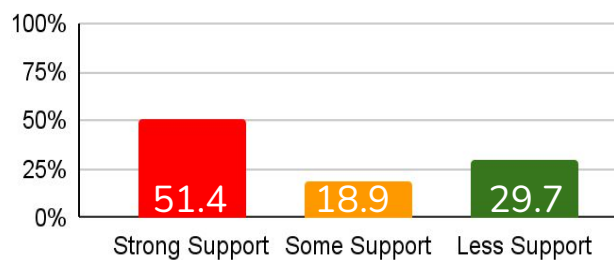
Start Strong: Math

(overall results by grade level)

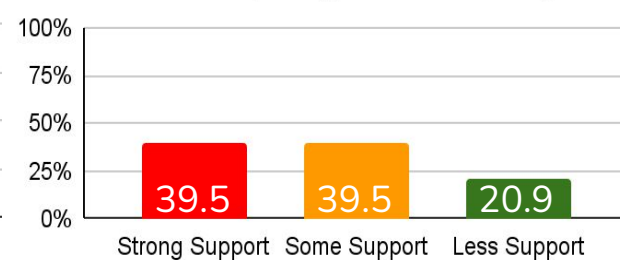
Grade 4 Math (3rd grade content)



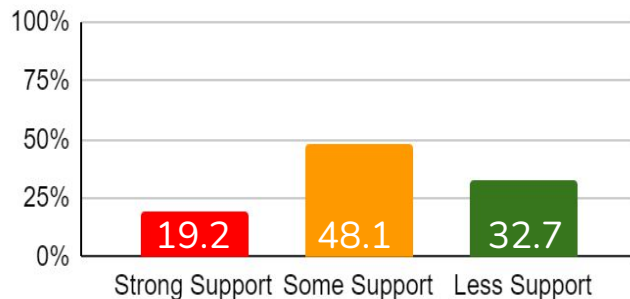
Grade 5 Math (4th grade content)



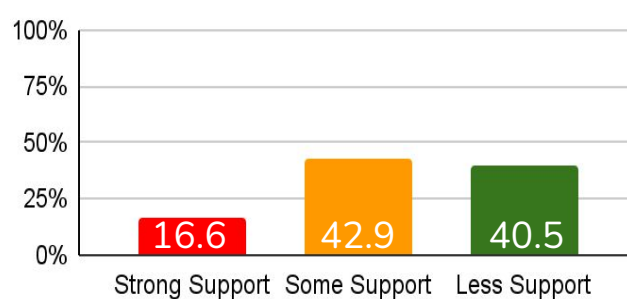
Grade 6 Math (5th grade content)



Grade 7 Math (6th grade content)

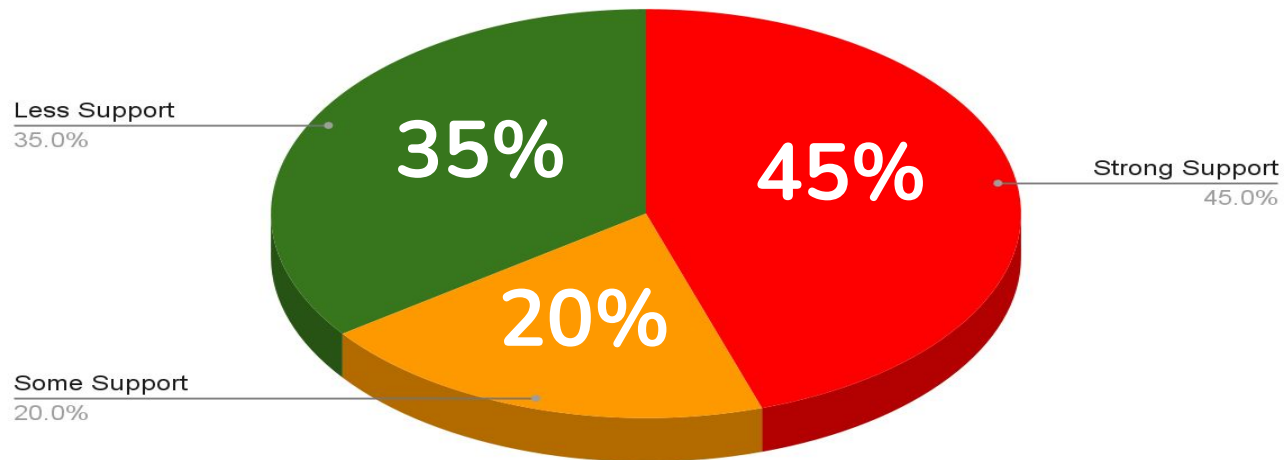


Grade 8 Math (7th grade content)



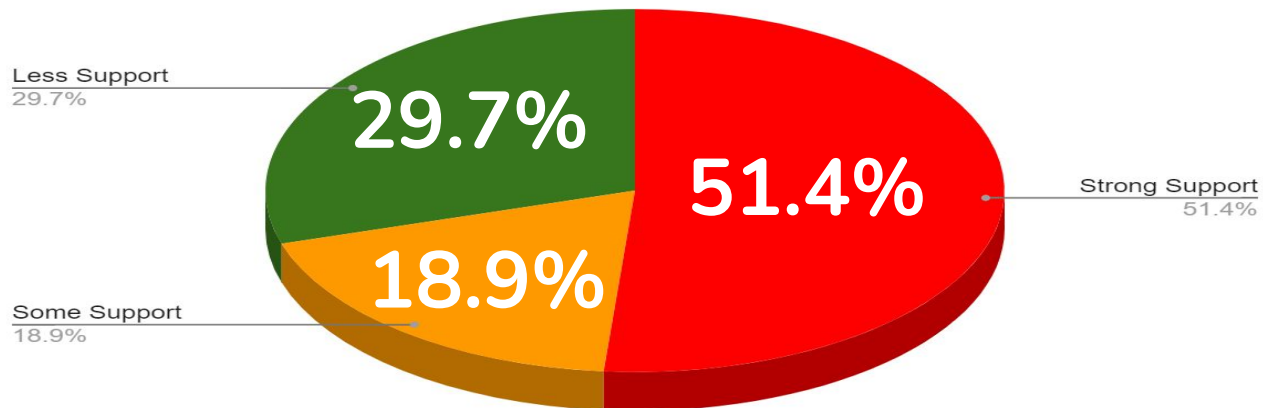


Grade 4 Math



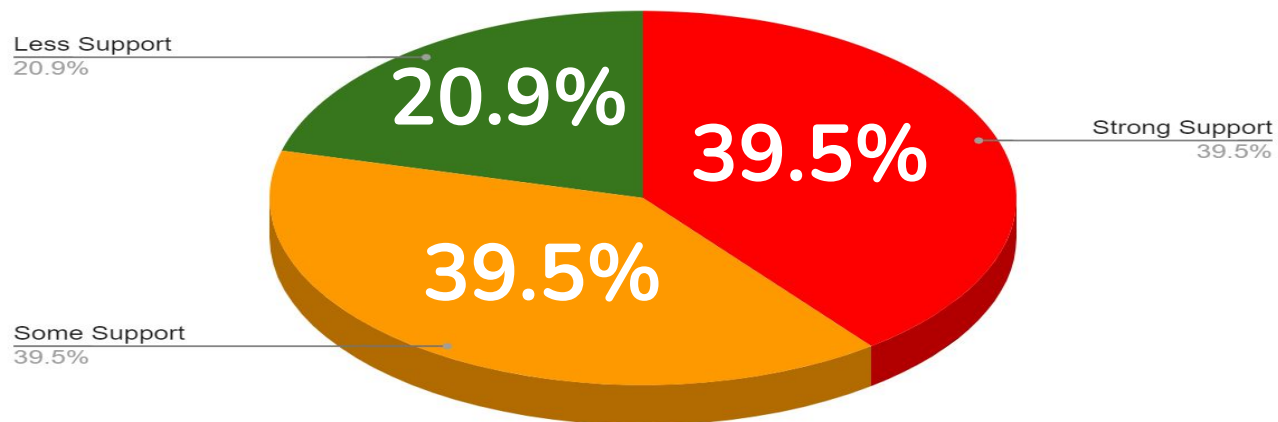


Grade 5 Math

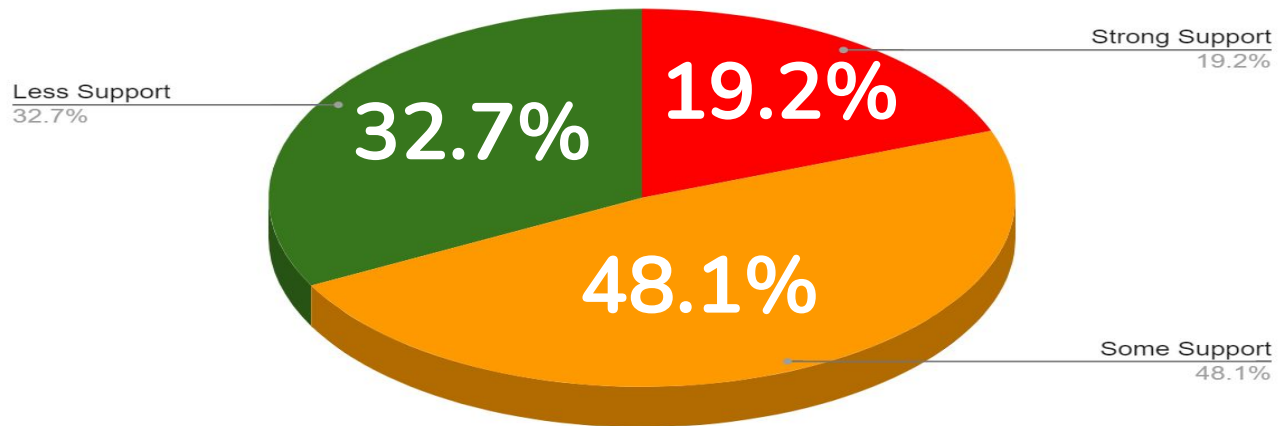




Grade 6 Math

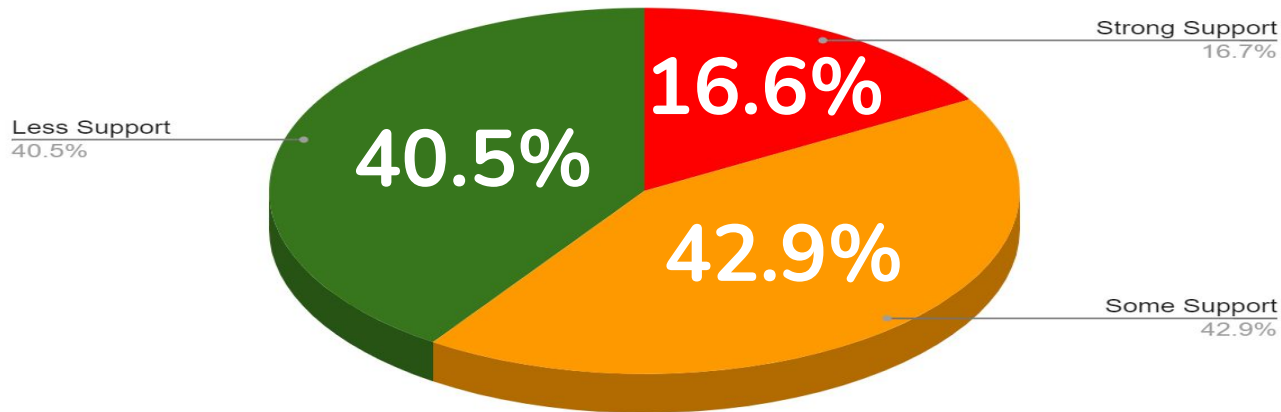


Grade 7 Math





Grade 8 Math



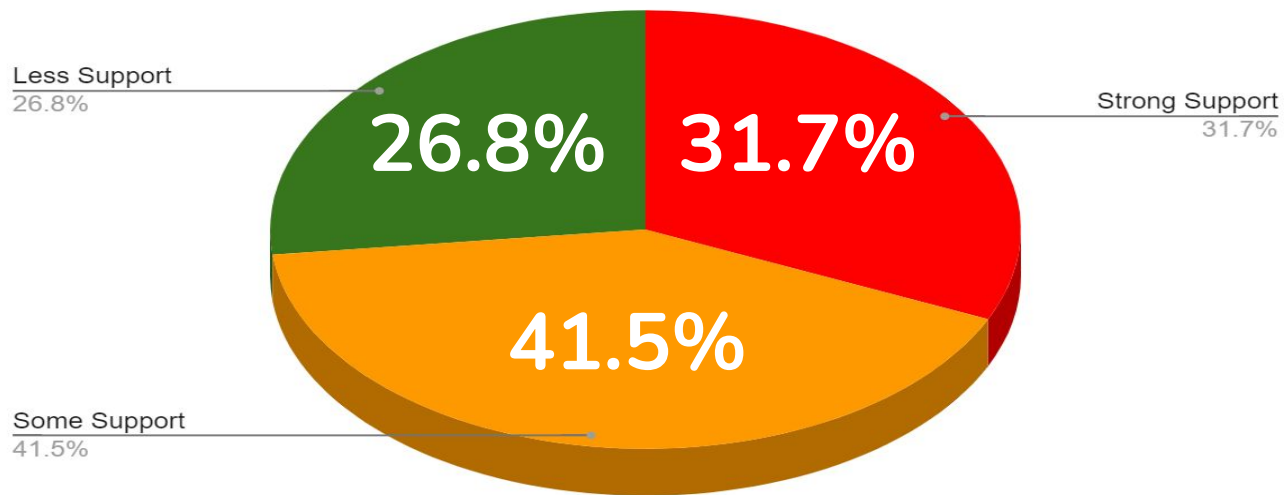


Start Strong: Science

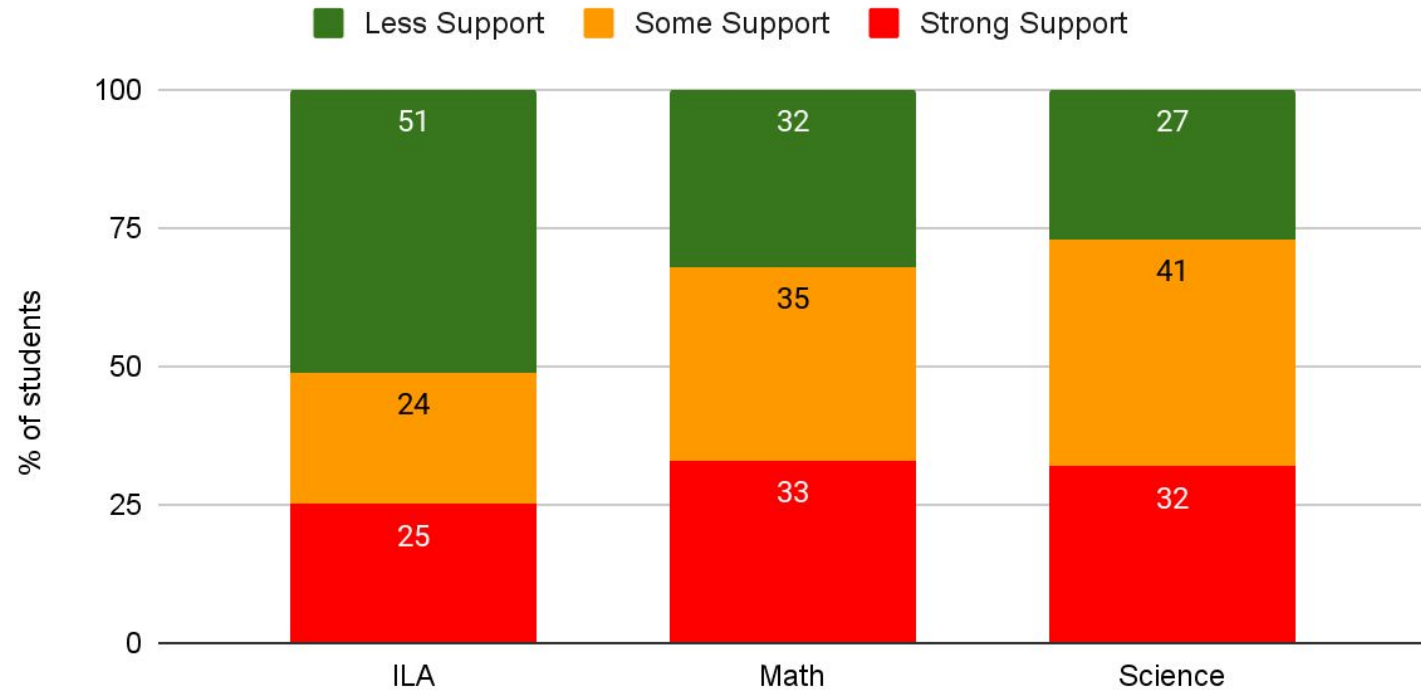
Grades 6

- Consisted of 25 questions.
- Broken down into 3rd-5th grade skills.
- Content included: investigating practices, sensemaking practices, critiquing practices, Earth and Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science.
- Administered on Thursday, September 30th.
- Approximately time: 45-60 minutes.

Grade 6 Science



Support Level Reports Overall Standing for grades 4-8





Notable Achievements

- The assessment provided an item analysis per standard to determine areas of strength or weakness.
- It was granular to the student level.
- Teachers were provided with direct feedback on which students needed which supports.
- Teachers were also provided with the data on last year's students to gain an understanding of how their instructional practice impacted student performance.



ILA Awareness - Start Strong

WEAKNESS AREAS

- Citing Evidence from Text
- Making inferences
- Determining theme in story

STRENGTH AREAS

- Improved in our ability to read Informational texts
- Determining author's point of view
- General and academic specific vocabulary



MATH Awareness - Start Strong

WEAKNESS AREAS

- Fluency in basic computation
- Understanding fraction concepts

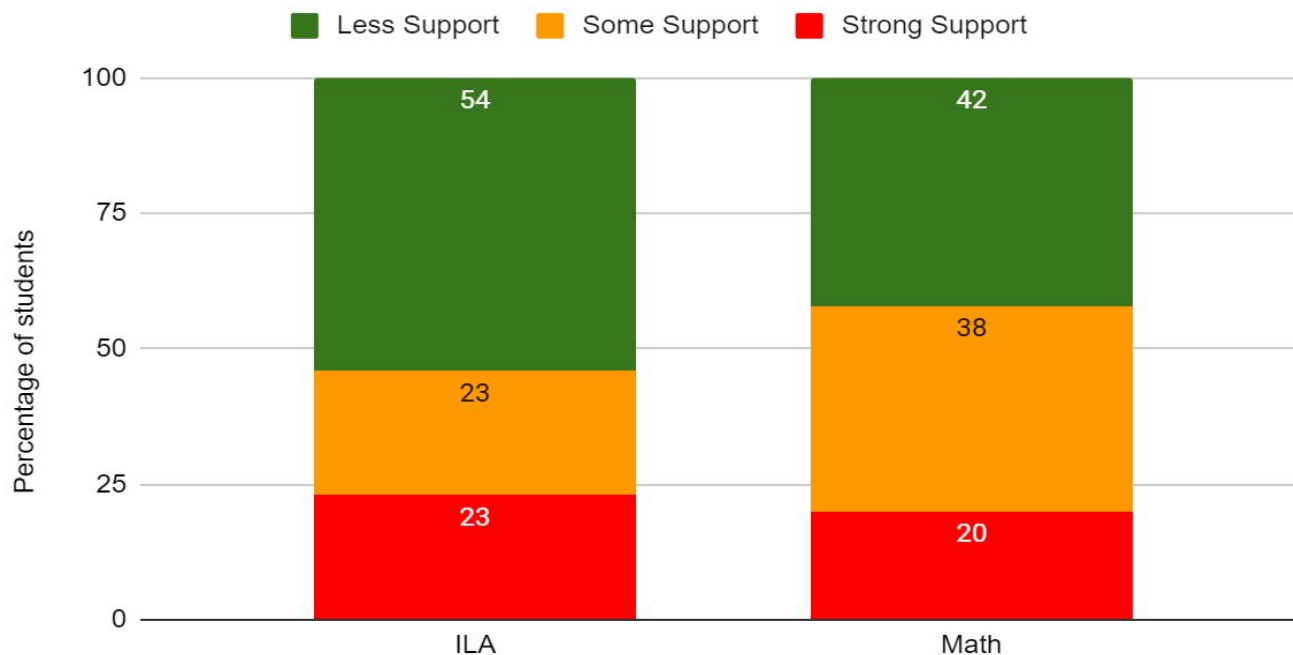
STRENGTH AREAS

- Developed a strong ability to explain mathematical thinking
- Improved in answering multi-step problems

Where are we now?

Current i-Ready report

i-Ready Overall Report for Grades 4-8 (December 2021)





INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Our intervention plan is designed to incorporate 5 key areas to address identified weaknesses and bolster student growth.

1. Personnel
2. Program
3. Curricular Resources
4. Time
5. Parent Communication and Outreach



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Personnel

- Analyze current staffing
- Determine best way to provide consistent intervention and support for ILA and Math
- Increase math interventionists with current availability in schedules
- Ensure all staff are being provided the greatest amount of time working directly with students



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Program

- Assess current programs in use and determine if there is a need to evaluate other potential options
- Evaluate current model of math instruction
 - Determine options for greater differentiation to meet current needs of students
- Utilize ARP ESSER Grant Funds to train K-2 staff (including special education and interventionists) in Orton-Gillingham
 - Strengthen phonics and foundational skills



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Curricular Resources

- Evaluate intervention materials in ILA and Math
- Utilize in district benchmark assessment data to guide instructional and intervention programming
- Determine the value of current technology resources to streamline assessment and increase instructional minutes
- Increase overall differentiation to support varied levels in ILA, Math, and Science



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Time

- Evaluating and assessing the master schedule to maximize intervention time
- Recommendation to adjust the busing schedule to extend the school day to 2:50 daily for next year
- Continue to increase student contact time from 2:15-2:45 within teacher schedules
- Offer after school, Saturday, and Summer Learning Time



INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Parent Communication and Outreach

- Provide updates to parents on student levels, interventions, strengths, and weaknesses
- Communicate results of our in district assessments and progress monitoring
- Offer strategies for parents to utilize to support students in ILA, Math, and Science



Questions and Comments

This data has provided us with the ability to literally “**START STRONG.**”

We are continually reevaluating our approach to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students!