



Building Partnerships for Tomorrow

**Union County Educational Services Commission**

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Please be advised that students in Hillcrest Academy South, Hillcrest Academy North, and Lambert's Mill Academy will be participating in the Start Strong Assessment once again this year. Pursuant to the Commissioner's regulatory authority, local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to administer the Start Strong assessment as part of the overall Statewide assessment system. The Start Strong assessment is a valuable tool for teachers, parents, and schools that provide results in real time. The identification of the most appropriate level of support students need in English language arts, mathematics, and science based on priority New Jersey Student Learning Standards from the prior academic year is not only informative, but essential. Results will assist in providing longitudinal data to teachers, parents, and schools.

The Start Strong assessments are intentionally brief, designed to maximize instructional time and quickly provide critical data to teachers and school leaders. These assessments provide schools and districts the flexibility to address students' unique needs at the beginning of the school year. The Start Strong assessments:

- 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; and
- Will include the same accessibility features and accommodations as the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA), including extra testing time as needed.

UCESC students at HAS, HAN and LMA will be testing September 12-September 16<sup>th</sup>, with make-up testing scheduled for the following week as needed. It is important that your child attend school during any assessment window.

For additional information about statewide assessments, please visit the New Jersey Department of Education parent resource webpage at [www.nj.gov/education/assessment](http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment).