Start Strong:
Fall 2021 Administrations

Support in Identifying Student Needs

Montgomery Township School District
January 25, 2022

Start Strong Assessment Overview

What:	❑ A standardized assessment in ELA, Mathematics, and Science ❑ Based on a **subset** of prioritized **prior-year** academic standards ❑ Administered in 45–60 minutes per subject ❑ Provided immediate results to educators through the assessment platform
When:	❑ Administered in October 2021
Why:	❑ Intended to provide information to complement other existing measures used by educators to evaluate the needs of students ❑ Satisfied federal statewide assessment requirements to administer general assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science for the 2020-2021 school year. ❑ Did not replace the spring 2022 New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) statewide summative assessments or are predictive of their results.

Start Strong Grade & Content Alignment

Content Area	Grade/Course in SY 2021 - 2022	Content of the Assessment
English Language Arts (ELA)	• Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8 • Grade 9 • Grade 10	• Grade 3 • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8 • Grade 9
Mathematics	• Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8 • Algebra 1 • Geometry • Algebra 2	• Grade 3 • Grade 4 • Grade 5 • Grade 6 • Grade 7 • Grade 8* • Grade 8* • Algebra 1
Science	• Grade 6 • Grade 9 • Grade 12	• Grades 3–5 • Grades 6–8 • Grades 9–11

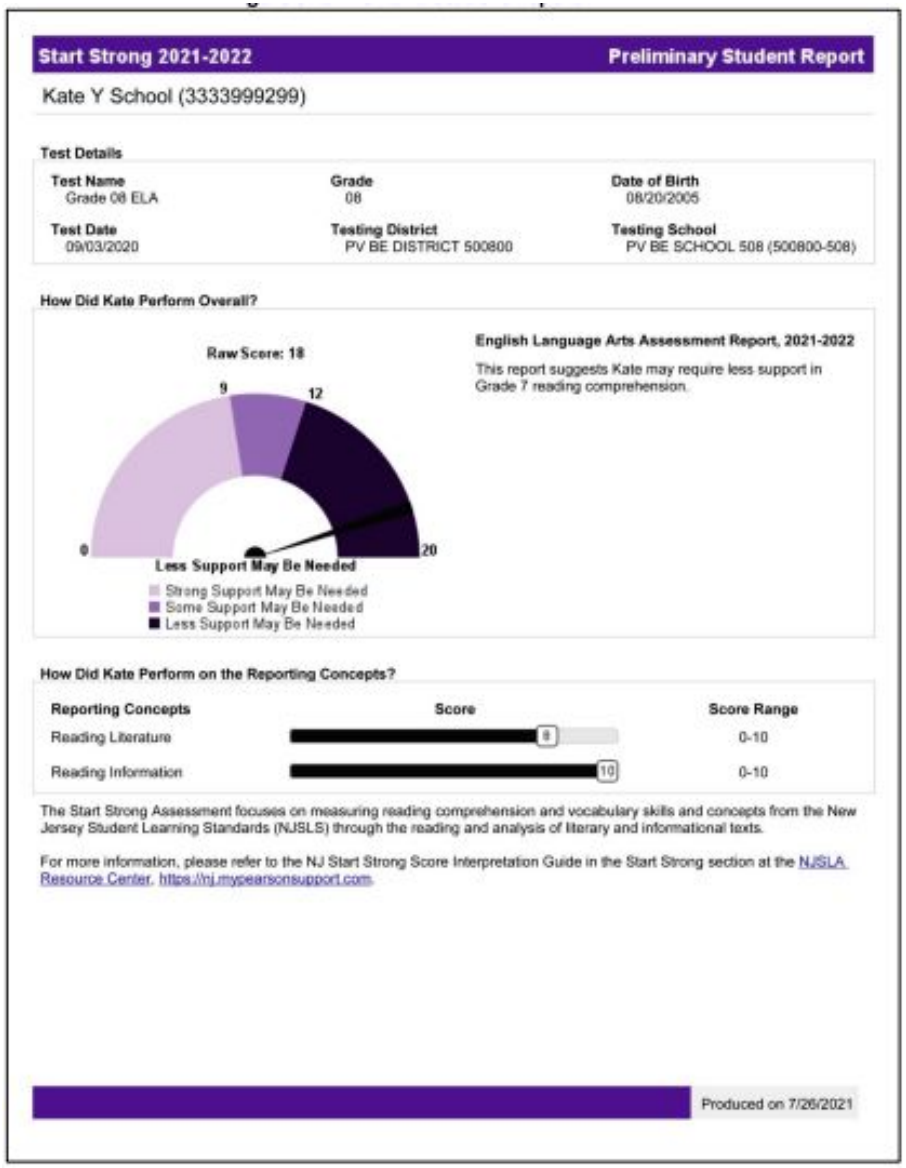
*Students beginning Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Algebra II in the 2021–2022 school year may have taken different mathematics courses depending on their individual course pathways. The Start Strong Assessments for Algebra I and Geometry are based on the Grade 8 learning standards and, therefore, measure some of the same concepts. The Start Strong Assessment for Algebra 1 contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to algebraic concepts, and the Start Strong Assessment for Geometry contains more items from the Grade 8 learning standards relevant to geometry concepts.

Start Strong Support Levels

The Start Strong Assessments provided information about the levels of support that students might need in a particular subject area.

Start Strong Support Levels	Descriptor
Level 1	**Strong** Support May Be Needed
Level 2	**Some** Support May Be Needed
Level 3	**Less** Support May Be Needed

Start Strong Individual Student Reports (ISR's)



Start Strong 2021-2022 — **Preliminary Student Report**

Kate Y School (3333999299)

Test Details

Test Name	Grade	Date of Birth
Grade 08 ELA	08	08/20/2005
Test Date	**Testing District**	**Testing School**
09/03/2020	PV BE DISTRICT 500800	PV BE SCHOOL 508 (500800-508)

How Did Kate Perform Overall?

Raw Score: 18

Strong Support May Be Needed
Some Support May Be Needed
Less Support May Be Needed

English Language Arts Assessment Report, 2021-2022

This report suggests Kate may require less support in Grade 7 reading comprehension.

How Did Kate Perform on the Reporting Concepts?

Reporting Concepts	Score	Score Range
Reading Literature	9	0-10
Reading Information	10	0-10

The Start Strong Assessment focuses on measuring reading comprehension and vocabulary skills and concepts from the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) through the reading and analysis of literary and informational texts.

For more information, please refer to the NJ Start Strong Score Interpretation Guide in the Start Strong section at the NJSLA Resource Center, https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com.

Produced on 7/26/2021

- There is an individual student report (ISR) for every subject that a student tested in.
- An ISR outlines the major concepts covered on the assessment, and how the student scored on those concepts.
- An ISR also suggests whether a student needs strong, some, or less support in that particular subject area.

ISR's can be accessed via the Genesis Parent Portal.

Section One:
District Analysis

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong

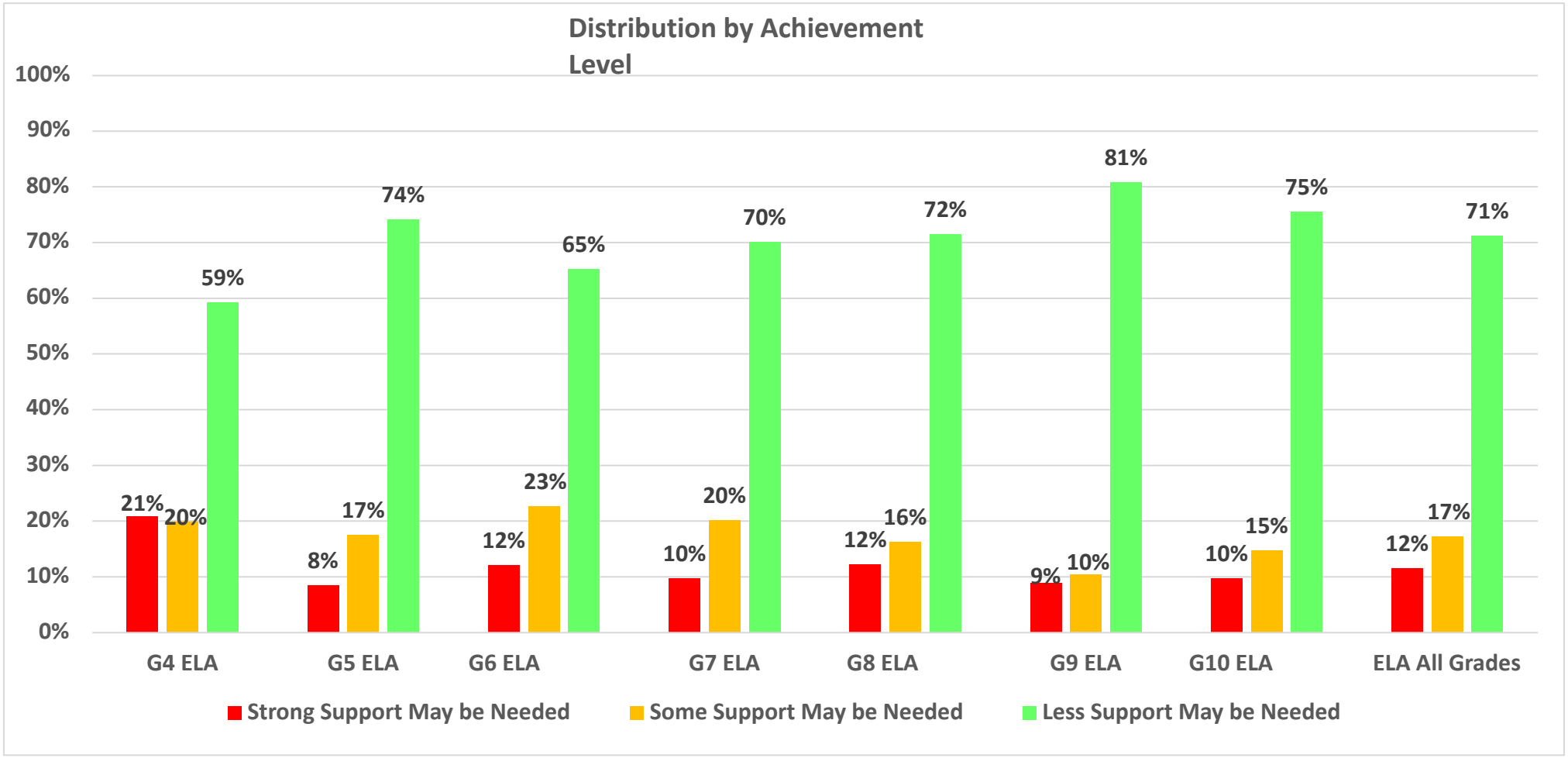
ELA/Language Arts

Grade	Total # students Tested	Support Levels					
		Strong Support May be Needed (Level 1)		Some Support May be Needed (Level 2)		Less Support May be Needed (Level 3)	
		2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total	2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total	2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total
4	326	68	21%	65	20%	193	59%
5	355	30	8%	62	17%	263	74%
6	348	42	12%	79	23%	227	65%
7	422	41	10%	85	20%	296	70%
8	400	49	12%	65	16%	286	72%
9	395	35	9%	41	10%	319	81%
10	359	35	10%	53	15%	271	75%
All Grades	2,605	300	12%	450	17%	1,855	71%

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong

ELA/Language Arts



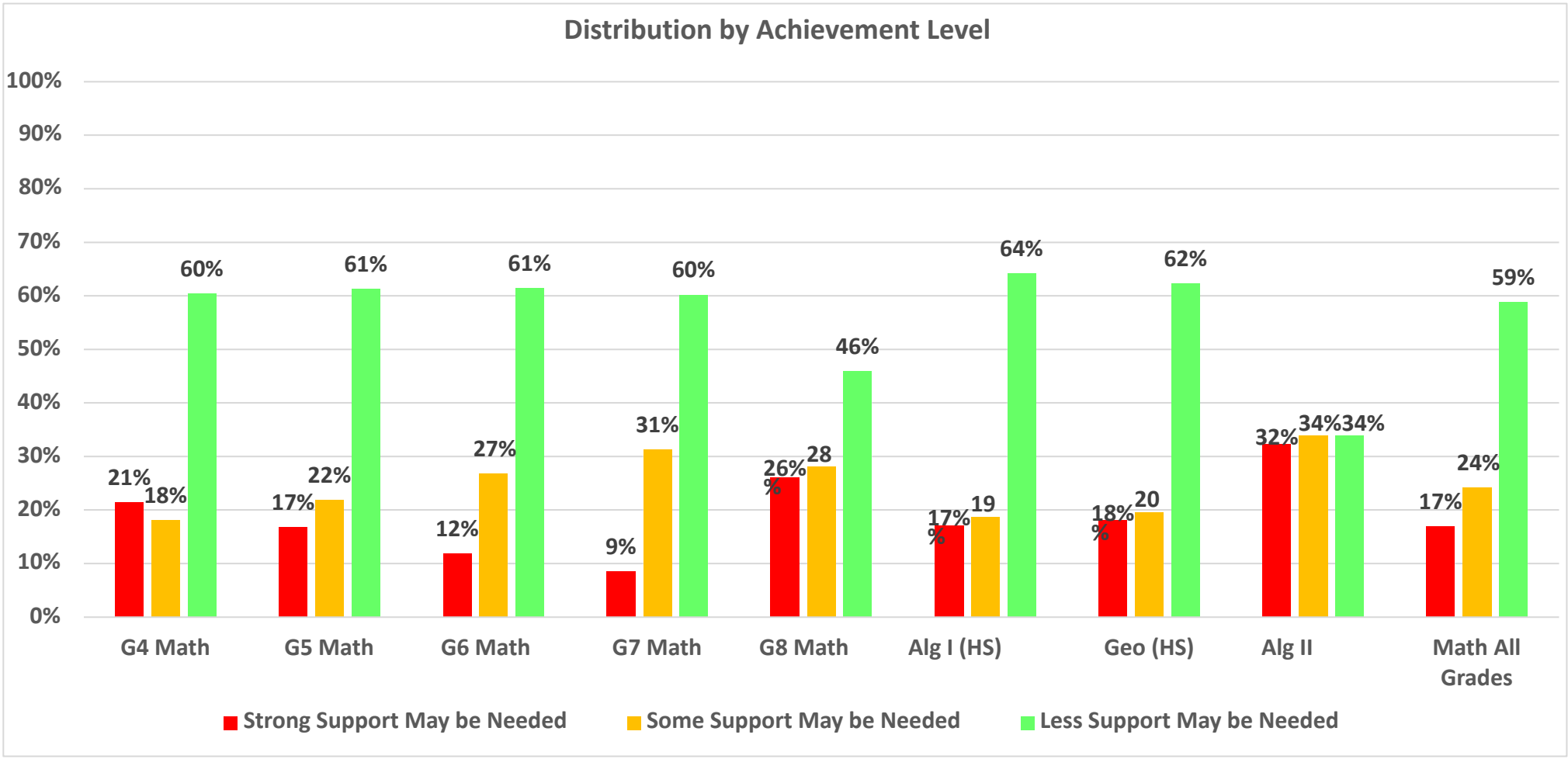
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong

Mathematics

Grade	Total # students Tested	Support Levels					
		Strong Support May be Needed (Level 1)		Some Support May be Needed (Level 2)		Less Support May be Needed (Level 3)	
		2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total	2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total	2021-22 # of students	2021-22 % of total
4	326	70	21%	59	18%	197	60%
5	357	60	17%	78	22%	219	61%
6	347	41	12%	93	27%	213	61%
7	422	36	9%	132	31%	254	60%
8	399	104	26%	112	28%	183	46%
Alg I (HS)	369	63	17%	69	19%	237	64%
Geo (HS)	215	39	18%	42	20%	134	62%
Alg II	62	20	32%	21	34%	21	34%
All Grades	2,497	433	17%	606	24%	1,458	59%

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
2021-22 Fall Start Strong
Mathematics



MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong

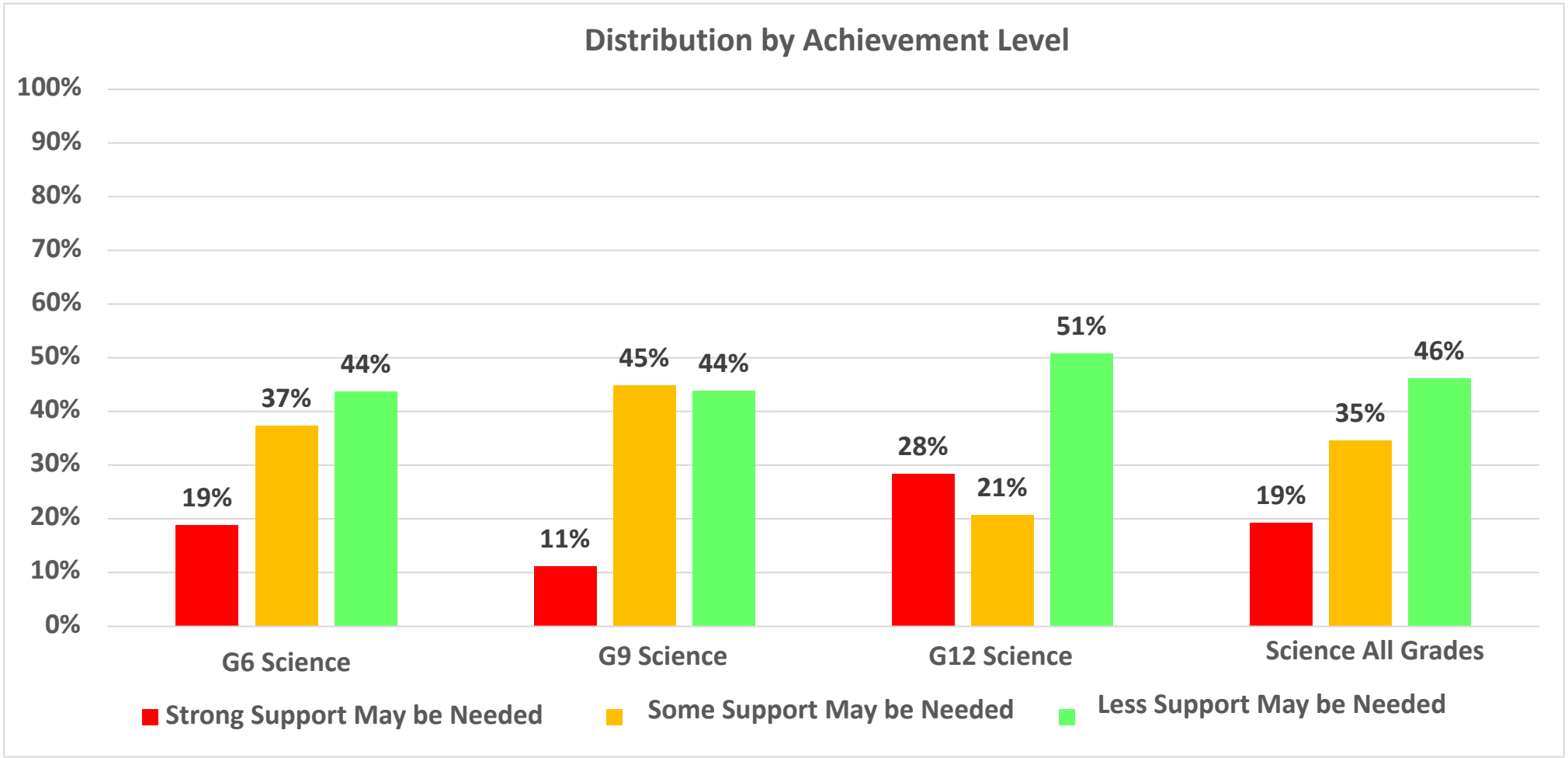
Science

Grade	Total # students Tested	Support Levels					
		Strong Support May be Needed (Level 1)		Some Support May be Needed (Level 2)		Less Support May be Needed (Level 3)	
		2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
		# of students	% of total	# of students	% of total	# of students	% of total
6	345	65	19%	129	37%	151	44%
9	392	44	11%	176	45%	172	44%
12	362	103	28%	75	21%	184	51%
All Grades	1,099	212	19%	380	35%	507	46%

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong

Science



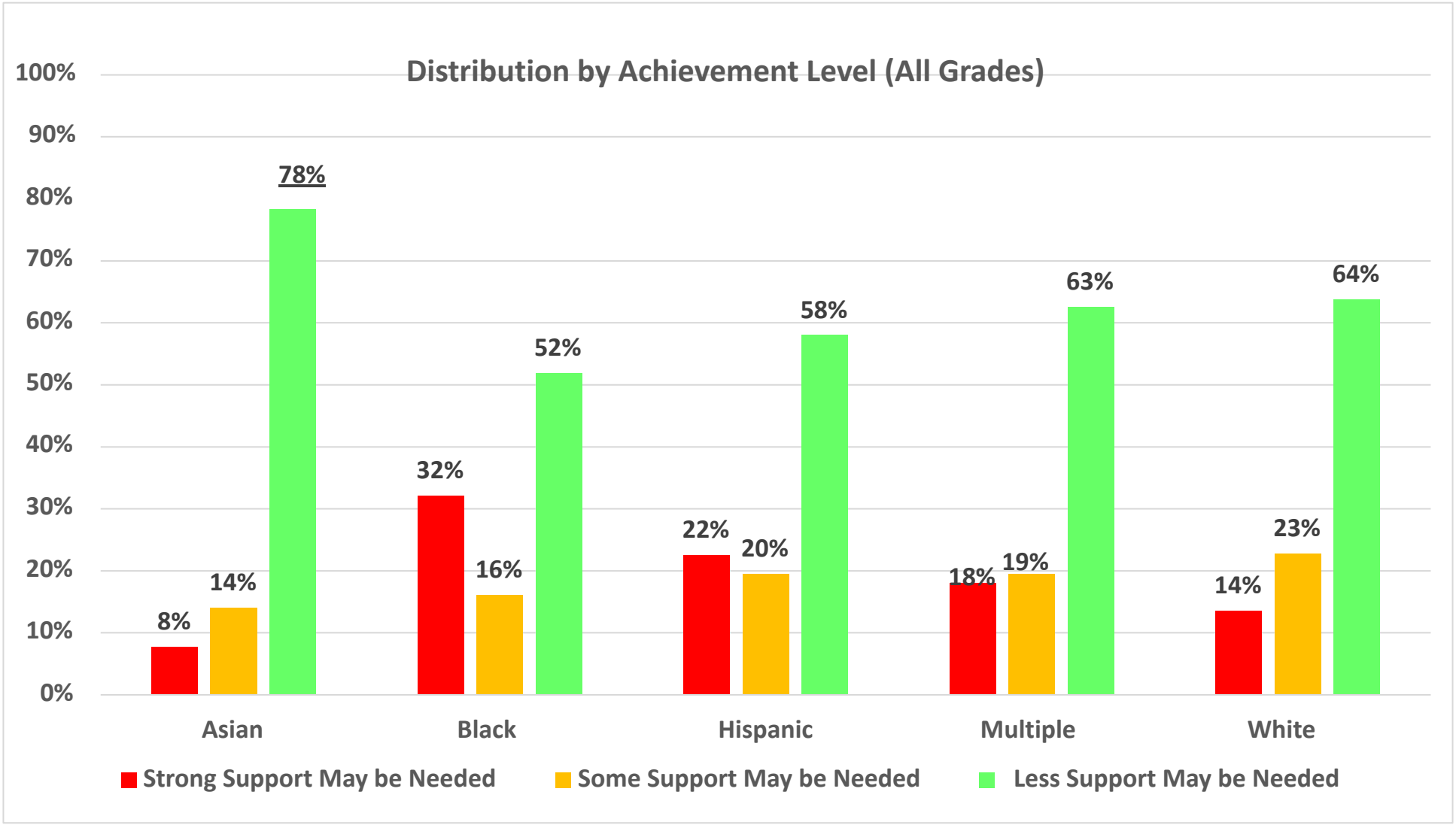
Section Two:
Demographic Analysis

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Race

ELA/Language Arts

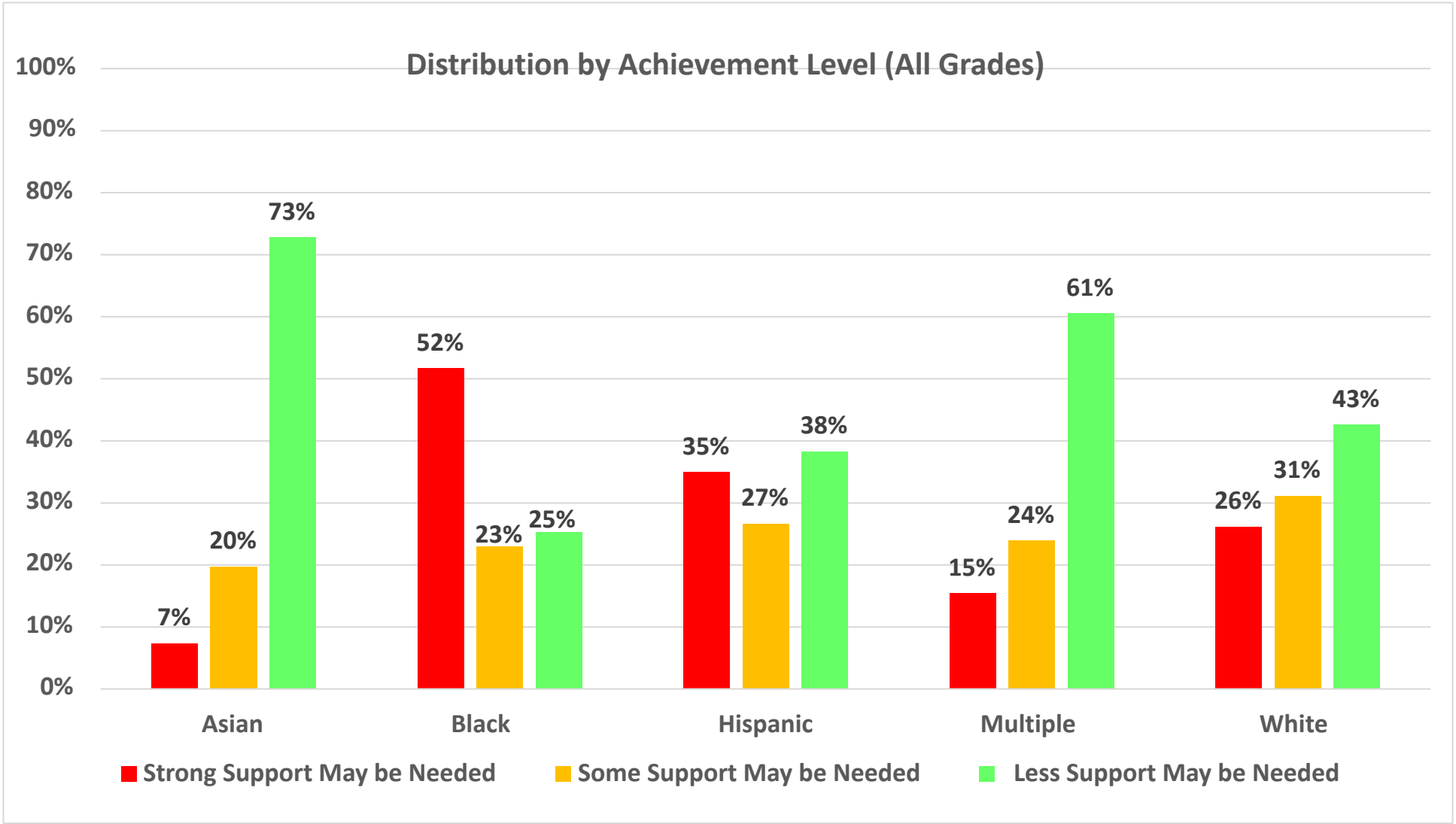


MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Race

Mathematics

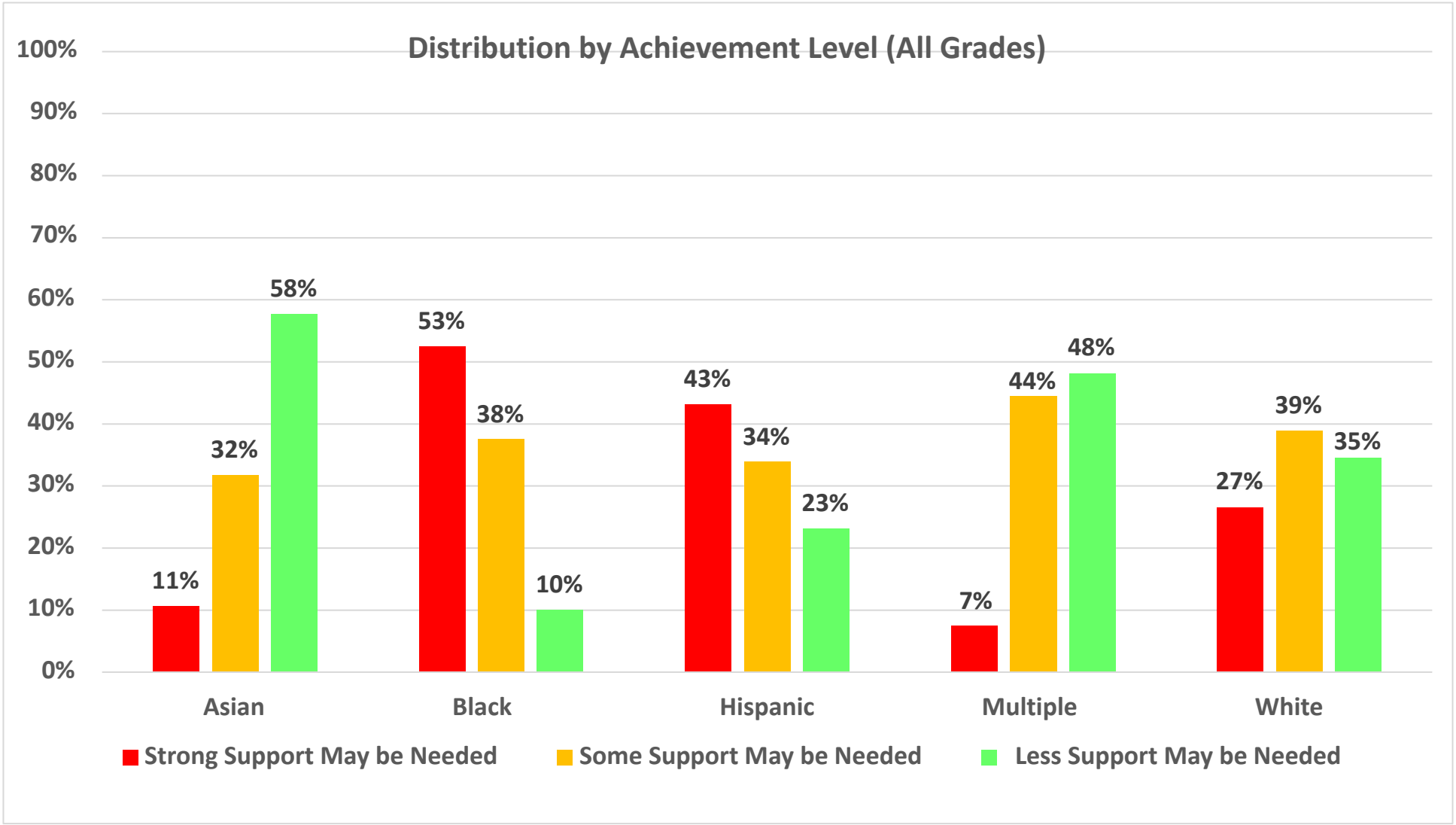


MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Race

Science

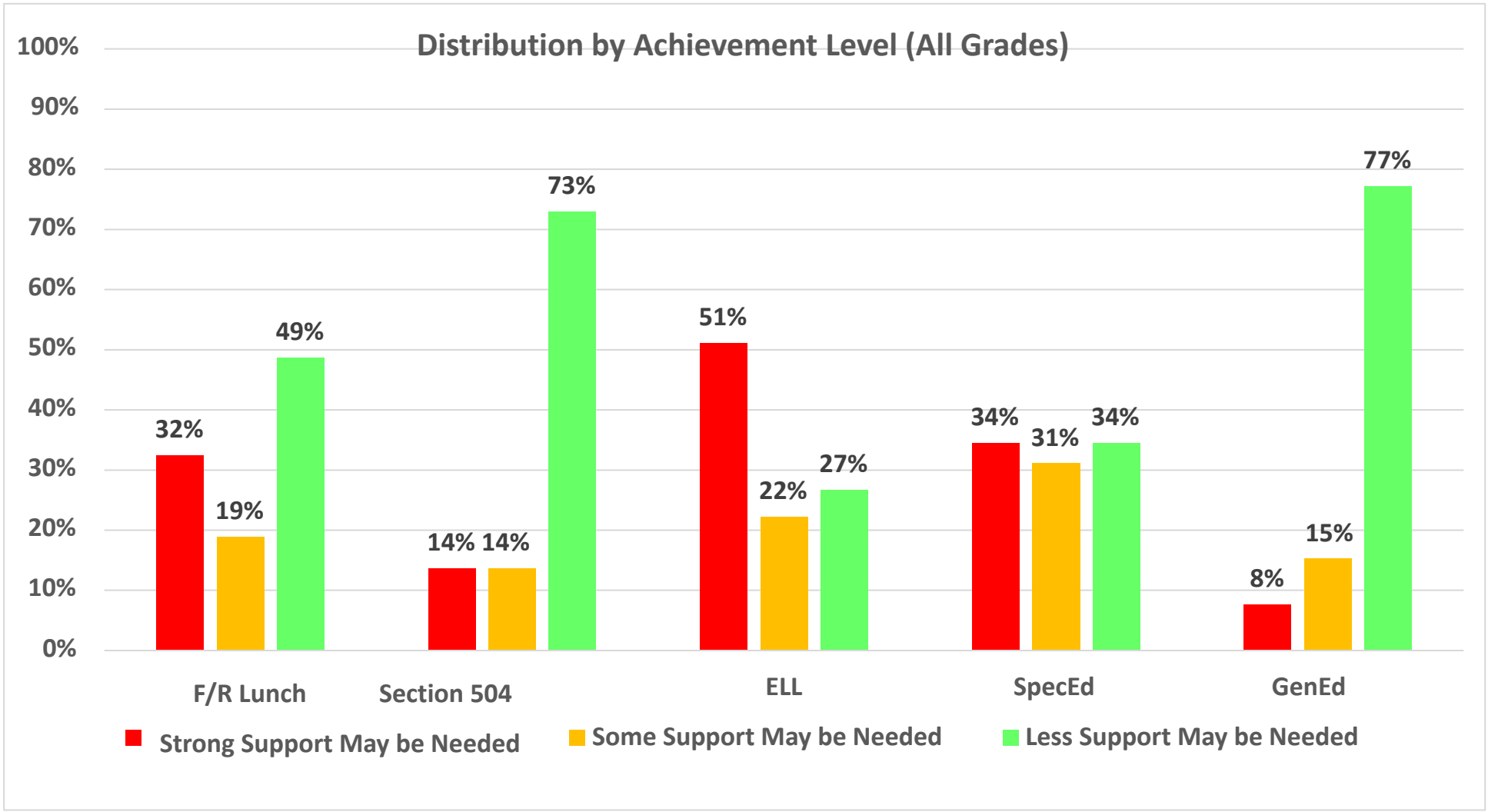


MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Program

ELA/Language Arts

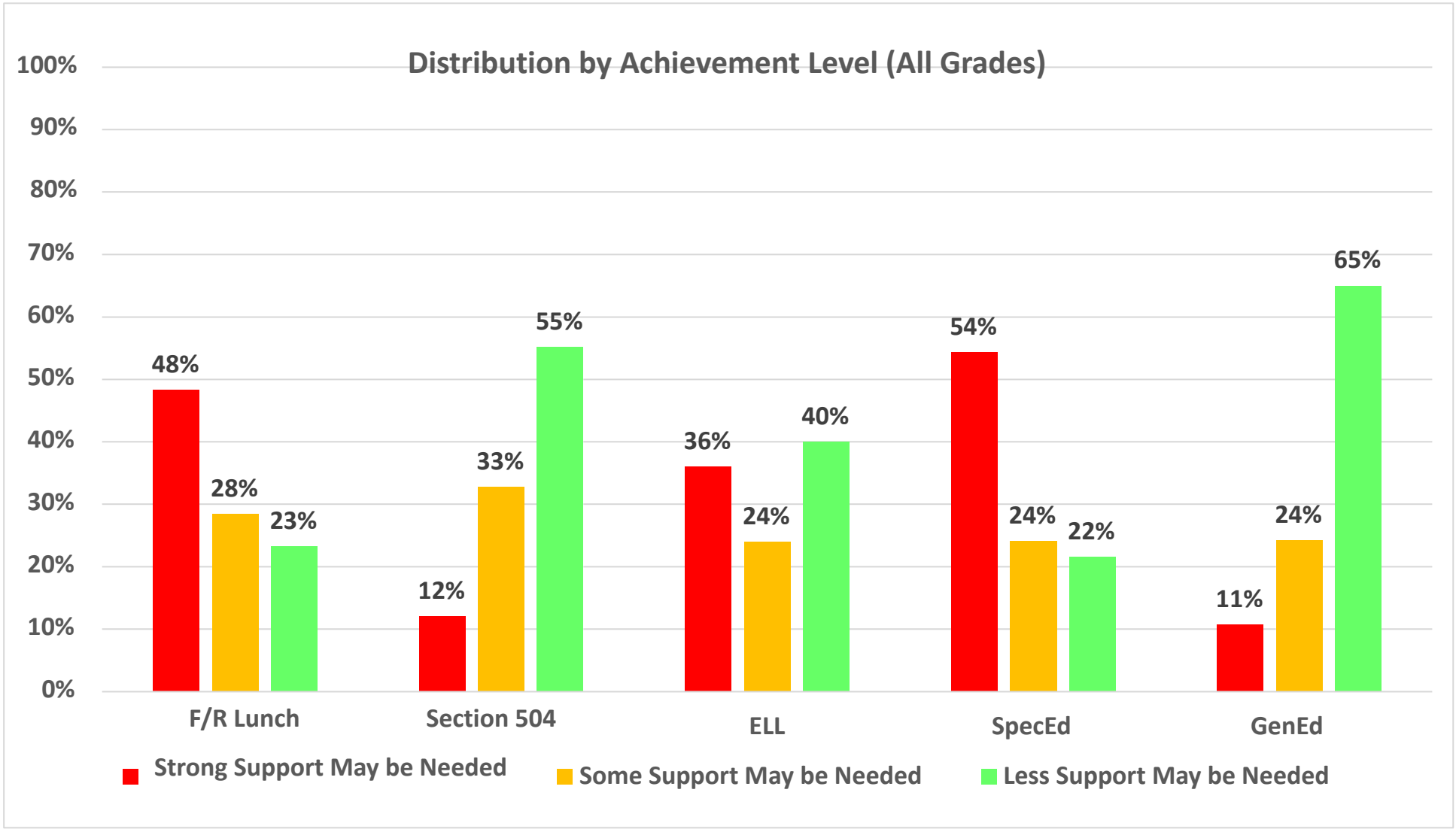


MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Program

Mathematics

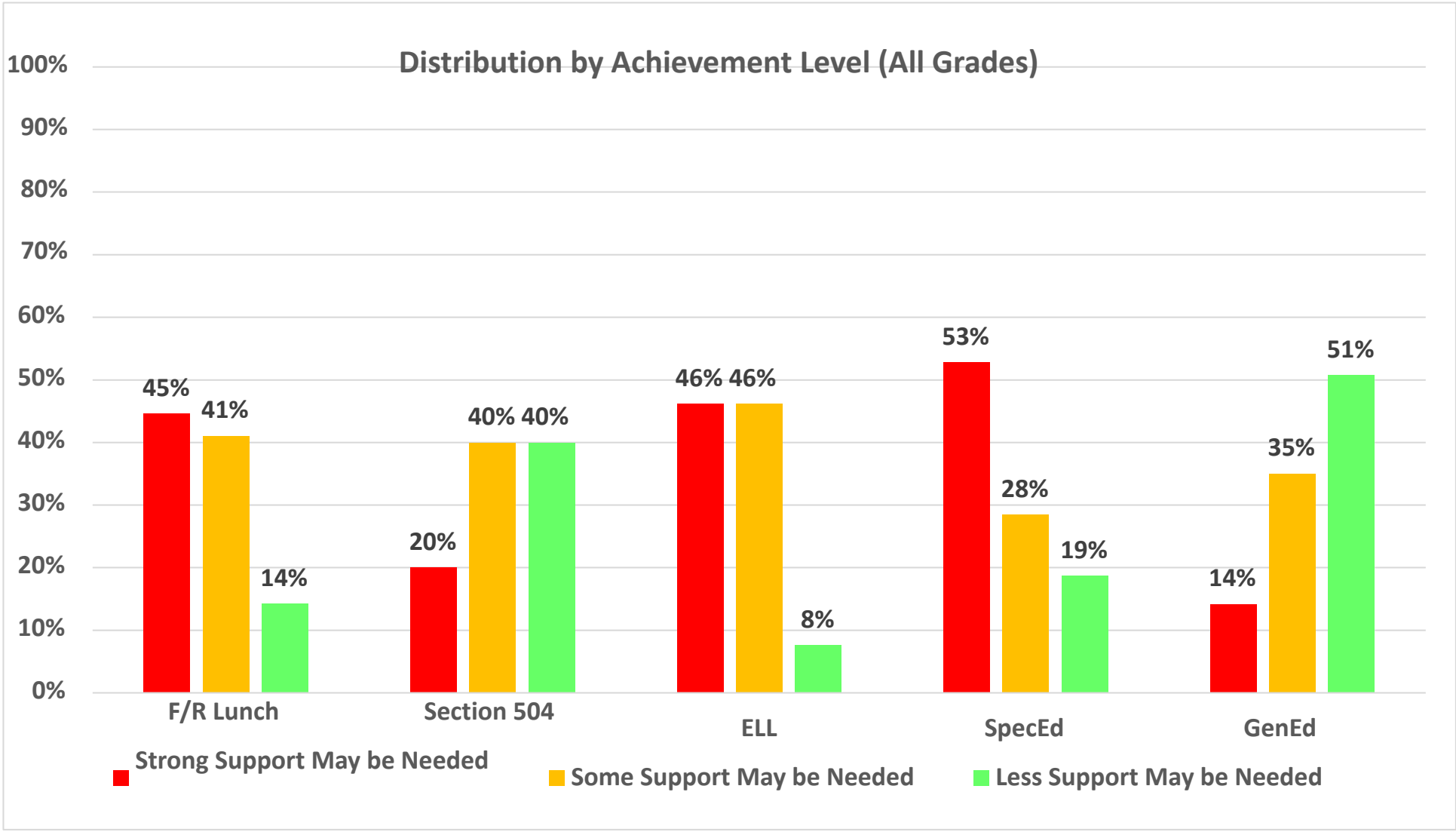


MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

2021-22 Fall Start Strong Performance by Subgroup

Program

Science



Start Strong Assessments: Key Takeaways

- The results of the Start Strong Assessment mirrors historical trends in New Jersey's standardized assessment data.

- The observations from the Start Strong Assessment are consistent with national pandemic-era observations:

    - Unfinished learning may be greater in math than in reading.
    - Unfinished learning may be greater for elementary students than for older students.
    - For historically underserved student populations, gaps continue to persist.

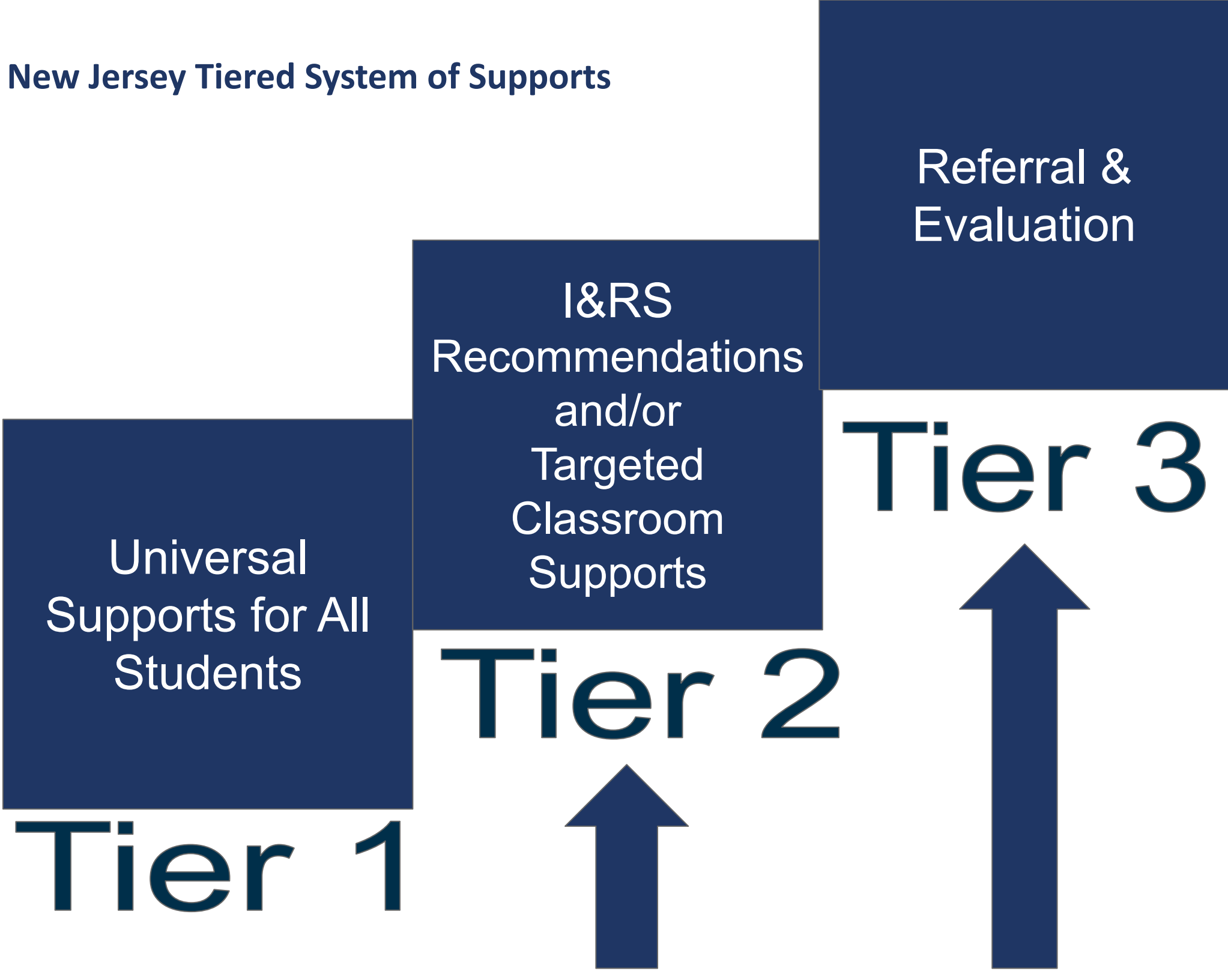
Defining Unfinished Learning: A term used by the NJDOE, *unfinished learning* refers to concepts students have not mastered yet, including knowledge they will need in order to grasp upcoming skills, standards, and/or concepts.

Intervention Strategies

Intervention strategies that address the needs of students:

- content area supervisors work closely with teachers in identifying standards, skills, and concepts not adequately grasped
- student performance is regularly monitored, analyzed, and discussed by staff including teachers, counselors, and administrators at team/department meetings
- Data is continuously used to help determine the efficacy of instructional practices

New Jersey Tiered System of Supports



Intervention Strategies

Elementary (Grade 4)	• assessment results are used during “data days” to aid with academic support decisions (data days = deep dive into achievement) • flexible classroom based strategy groups • district reading specialist
Middle (Grades 5-8)	• informed groupings in classrooms • one-on-one conferencing • mandated “flex time” for those who need “strong support” • most students were discussed at guidance/admin meetings to see what correlation could be noted in various areas
High (Grades 9-12)	• after school support • mandatory study hall • Mathematics lab course • Literacy Skills Lab course at MHS for students who demonstrate a more significant skill deficiency in writing and reading

Important to Note

In consideration with the different design and purpose of Start Strong compared to the NJSLA, the NJDOE strongly discourages districts from comparing any individual student, school, or district Start Strong data to any state-level data for Start Strong or to any NJSLA data.