

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Frequently Asked Questions regarding TJ's *What I Need (WIN)* Program

What is the basis for placement in the WIN program?

This program is a free and supplemental service provided during the school day and designed to help your child perform on grade-level in Math and ELA. All TJ students have been screened for eligibility using the combined data picture of NJASK scores, STAR assessment results, and teacher recommendation. Students that have demonstrated performance half a year or more behind in grade level, in the areas of English Language Arts or Math, are considered for enrollment in the program.

How long will my child be enrolled in the WIN program?

Students will be enrolled in WIN for one full marking period. At the end of each marking period, students will be reevaluated and the teacher will make recommendations for placement during the next cycle. Students that have met their goals will return to regular classes. Those that are not yet performing on grade level will most often begin another cycle of WIN.

Is WIN mandatory if my child was selected?

No. WIN is a supplemental service that we are providing to specifically selected students based on their individual needs. You may choose to waive your child out of the program, however, please know that your child's selection has been made based on an informed decision-making process and we highly recommend that your child takes advantage of the opportunity. If you do strongly oppose your child's enrollment you may make an appeal to have your child opted out. Contact Miss Kline via the school number if you would like to learn more about this option.

What activities will students engage in during WIN?

There are three categories of support that students will receive during WIN sessions. The WIN teachers will plan activities based on the demonstrated needs of the students in the group. These three categories are:

1. **Targeted intervention** - Using data that we have collected regarding specific areas of need, teachers will engage students in learning that is focused on addressing specific weaknesses and learning gaps. Targeted interventions will be the primary focus of WIN.
2. **Additional support** – A portion of WIN time will be spent providing additional support to students on their current coursework. This is aimed at increasing student classroom confidence and enabling teachers to identify and address learning gaps in the context of current assignments.
3. **Progress monitoring** - Students that are enrolled in WIN will have their progress monitored via computerized STAR assessments more frequently than the general student body. Every three to four weeks, WIN students will be reevaluated. This enables teachers to work with the most up to date data possible and ensures that all students are progressing.

What will students miss while they are participating in WIN?

In all cases, students that participate in WIN ELA will be pulled from all Spanish classes. WIN Math will usually take the place of the independent reading period. Although missing these classes is not ideal, this is a more effective alternative to students missing time in their core area classes.

Will students be held responsible for work that they miss when they are pulled from Spanish?

No. While participating in WIN, students will remain on the rosters of their Spanish teacher, but they will be exempted from any course work or required activities that they miss. Additionally, when students test out of WIN and return to normal participation in these specials, the teachers will make individualized accommodations so that students are not graded based on content or skills in which they have not received instruction.

What is the difference between NJASK, STAR and LinkIt?

NJASK - The NJASK test is required by the NJ Department of Education and administered by our local school district over the course of several days, in the spring. The test is paper-based and scored by a company contracted by the NJDOE.

STAR - The STAR assessments are district controlled computerized assessments that accurately measure student proficiencies in math and reading. The adaptive software adjusts questions based on each student response and is thus able to assign a grade-level competency to each student in math and ELA (for example, STAR results might reveal that a 7th grade student reads at a 9th grade level, but can only perform math at a 6th grade level).

LinkIt - LinkIt is also a district controlled computer-based assessment. It is a standardized test that simulates the NJASK and predicts how students will perform during spring testing.