



**RIDE** Rhode Island  
Department  
of Education

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*Release of  
Spring 2018  
RICAS Test Items*

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**June 2018**  
**Rhode Island Department of  
Elementary and Secondary Education**

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This document was prepared by the  
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# I. Introduction

# *Introduction*

In 2018, Rhode Island transitioned the state testing program to the Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS). The RICAS tests include new item types and are designed to be administered primarily via computer, though paper-based tests will be available on an ongoing basis as an accommodation for eligible students.

The first RICAS tests were administered in the spring of 2018 to students in grades 3–8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

Rhode Island is committed to the regular release of RICAS test items to provide information about the kinds of knowledge and skills that students are expected to demonstrate. As a way of providing educators and the public with more information about the items, a brief description of each released and unreleased item on the grades 3–8 tests in ELA and Mathematics is provided. These item descriptions can be found in the tables that appear at the end of each relevant chapter in this publication.

## **Overview of Spring 2018 Item Releases**

This publication contains approximately 40% of the ELA operational items and approximately 14% of the Mathematics operational items from the 2018 tests in grades 3–8. (Operational items are those items on which student scores are based.) The items displayed here are the **paper-based versions** of the 2018 operational items that have been released. The **computer-based versions** of the released items are available on the RICAS Resource Center website at [ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/](https://ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/).

## **Purpose of This Publication**

The purpose of this publication is to share with educators and the public the spring 2018 test items that have been released. Educators will be able to use this information as they plan changes in curriculum and instruction that may be needed to improve student performance.

## Structure of This Publication

Each subsequent chapter of this publication contains information and materials for one RICAS test (one grade level and one content area). For example, Chapter II contains information for the grade 3 English Language Arts test.

Beginning with chapter II, each chapter has three main sections:

- The first section provides information about the content being assessed, including the Web address for the relevant standards. In addition, there is a brief overview of the test (number of test sessions, types of items, and reference materials allowed).
- The second section presents the released test items for the grade level and content area. Reading passages are included for ELA tests. For Mathematics tests, any reference sheets that were available to students during testing are provided.
- The final section of each chapter is a table that cross-references each released RICAS common/operational item with its RICAS reporting category and with the standard(s) it assesses. Correct answers to released RICAS selected-response questions are listed for all content areas, as are correct answers to released short-answer questions for Mathematics.

In addition, the final section of each chapter includes a second table that cross-references each unreleased RICAS operational item with its RICAS reporting category and with the standard it assesses.

As described above, an item description is provided for each released and unreleased item on the grades 3–8 tests in ELA and Mathematics. The item descriptions appear in both tables.

Materials presented in this publication are not formatted exactly as they appeared in student test booklets. For example, in order to present items most efficiently in this publication, some fonts and/or font sizes may have been changed, and some graphics may have been reduced in size. All references to page numbers in answer booklets have been deleted from the directions that accompany test items.

## Other Resources for Released RICAS Test Items

Educators and the public can also access released items and related materials in other formats:

- Computer-based versions of released test questions from the RICAS tests are available on the **RICAS Resource Center website** at [ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/](https://ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items/).
- The **Student Work/Scoring Guides webpage**, found at [www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/student/), provides writing prompts, sample student work, and scoring guides for essay questions and constructed-response questions.

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