

Understanding the RICAS Assessment

November 2018



What is the RICAS?

- RICAS is the Rhode Island version of the Massachusetts MCAS grade 3-8 English language arts and math assessment
- Focuses on students' **critical thinking abilities, application of knowledge,** and ability to make **connections between reading and writing**
- Gives a **signal of readiness** for the next grade level
- Designed to be given on a **computer**, paper available for students with accommodations
- First given in **spring 2018** to replace the PARCC assessment

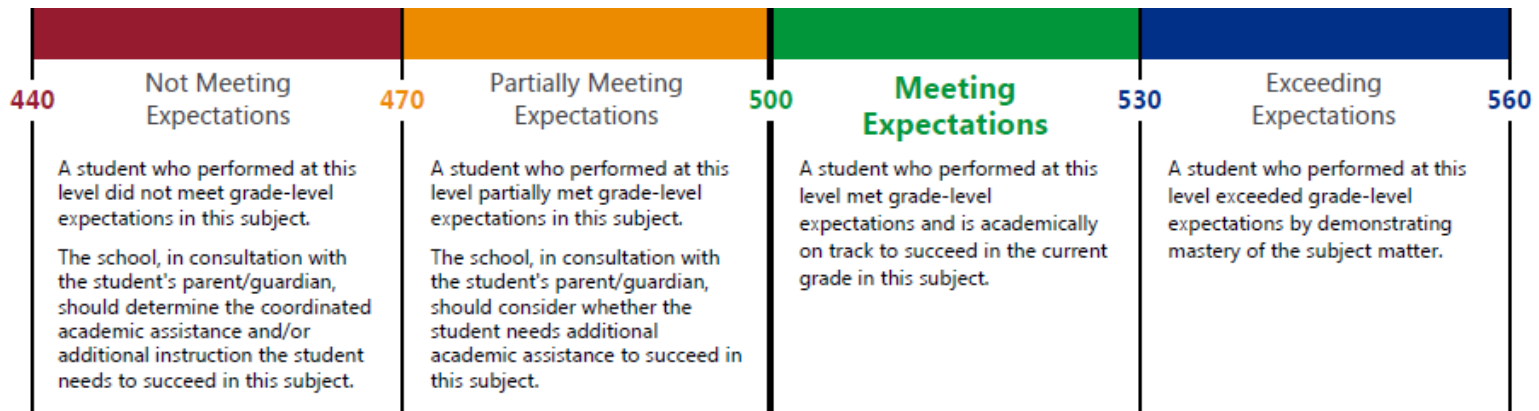


Score Release

- RICAS scores will be released in November 2018 to districts, schools, and families
- Grade 3-8 students will receive scores for English language arts and mathematics
- Grade 4-8 students with prior PARCC scores will also receive a growth score for English language arts and mathematics
- Families will receive a paper student report from their school

What will the scores look like?

- Achievement levels



- Aggregate results for schools, districts, and the state

Achievement

How your child performed compared to students in their school, district, and state.

Year	Your Child's Score	Average Score		
		School	District	State
2018				

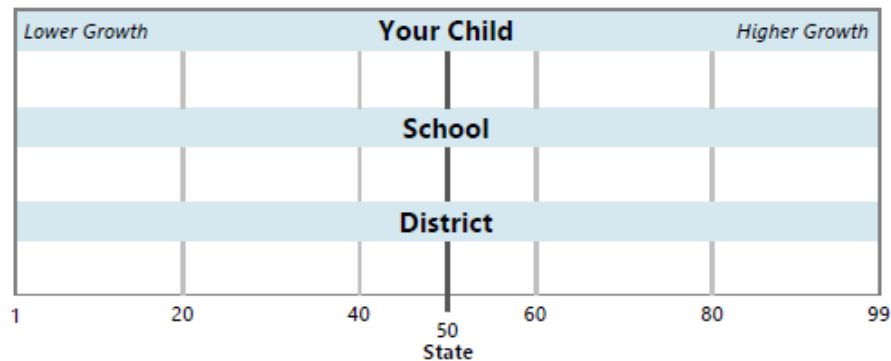


What will the scores look like?

- Student growth percentiles compared to average growth at the school, district, and state

2018 Student Growth Percentiles

Your child's score this year is the same as or better than _____ percent of Rhode Island students who had a similar score to your child on the PARCC assessment in a previous year(s).



Why did my child score Meet Expectations on PARCC but Partially Meeting Expectations on RICAS?

- In general, the new performance standards for Meeting Expectations on RICAS are **more rigorous** than the standards for Meeting Expectations on PARCC.
- These standards **signal students' readiness** for the next grade level.
- **Look closely at where your child's score falls** within the Partially Meeting Expectations category. If it isn't close to Meeting Expectations, talk with your child's teacher about how you can work together to help your child catch up.
- Spring 2018 is a **baseline year** for a new test in grades 3-8, and spring 2018 scores **should not be compared** to previous year's scores.

