Family Guide to Understanding RICAS

RI Comprehensive Assessment System – Spring 2023

Office of Instruction, Assessment, & Curriculum

August 2023



Table of Contents

What is RICAS?
What is the test like?
Item and question types
Why are RICAS results important?
When and how are RICAS results reported? 4
More Information about ISRs5
What do these assessment terms mean?7
How are reporting categories helpful?8
How can I know how students did on particular test questions or items?
How can RICAS results be used?9
Where can I learn more about RICAS results? 10



What is RICAS?

RICAS is an annual assessment taken by Rhode Island students in grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. It is the same assessment as the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) for ELA and mathematics.

Students demonstrate critical thinking abilities and application of knowledge in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, including (for ELA) their ability to make connections between reading and writing.

Student performance on the assessment gives a signal of student readiness for the next grade level based on the content standards for their current grade level.

What is the test like?

Students take two sessions each of ELA and mathematics. All sessions are untimed, so students can take the time they need to work productively.





Read passages and respond to questions about what was read



Write short and essay answers in response to reading



Students encounter both literary (e.g., fiction) and informational (e.g., nonfiction) texts



Interact with scenarios, math problems, and questions

Mathematics



Demonstrate understanding of math concepts and apply math skills



Use math tools (e.g., calculators, equation editor, gridded response)



Item and question types

Item types include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, "technology enhanced" questions like dragand-drop, and written responses/essays. While RICAS is designed to be given on a computer, there is a paper version available for students with accommodations.

Students can gain experience with item types found on the test through the online or paper practice tests for their grade level. Practice tests also allow students with accommodations to become familiar with text-to-speech and other tools. You can access the <u>ELA Practice Test</u> or <u>Mathematics Practice Test</u> online through the <u>RICAS Resource Center</u>.



Mathematics

Why are RICAS results important?

RICAS gives teachers, students, and families information about student progress, school performance, and how to improve teaching and learning. The performance standards for RICAS signal students' readiness for the next grade level.

When and how are RICAS results reported?

RICAS results are reported in the fall of the same calendar year the assessment took place. State-, district-, and school-level results are made available to the general public: data that are released in aggregate form (groups) make it possible to see how schools, districts, and the state are doing while keeping individual student results confidential. Student-level information is only accessible by certain educators and an individual student's family.

Public Aggregate Results

- Posted on the Rhode Island Assessment Data Portal (www.ride.ri.gov/RIADP).
- School, district, and state levels in aggregate form: reporting averages for groups of students protects student confidentiality.
- Families, community members, and educators can review this data.
- Review how schools are doing, including comparing between schools within and across districts.



Educator Access to Inform Instruction	 Educators receive access to the results of the students they teach. Only accessible through a confidential, secure login system. Educators analyze student results to help them better support the students- whether that means refining their instructional practices or adjusting curricular decisions.
Student Results for Families	 The family of each student receives their student's RICAS results in the form of the individual student score report (ISR). ISRs are provided to families from the student's school district. Districts also retain a PDF copy of the student's ISR and can securely transfer that to a student's family or use it to re-print the ISR if a duplicate is needed.

More Information about ISRs

RIDE has created a guide to help families understand the individual student score report (ISR) they receive, which is posted on the <u>RIDE website</u> under RICAS.

The ISR has been translated into multiple languages to support access by families whose primary language may not be English. ISRs include the following information, explained in more detail in the guide:

- general information about this year's administration
- student scale score and achievement level for ELA and mathematics
- student past performance on previous RICAS administrations (if applicable)
- achievement comparison with the school/district/state
- student growth percentile (SGP; see next page) and average growth for the school, district, and state
- reporting category points earned and student performance on individual test questions

RICAs Spotlight Videos:

- On the front page of the ISR is a QR code that links to a personalized video that explains that student's results. This video walks through the different parts of the ISR and explains what each means.
- The QR code on back page of the ISR leads to <u>www.ride.ri.gov/Families</u>.



Spring 2023 RICAS Individual Student Report



For each subject, the

report shows:

 Your child's score between 440 and 560

Use your phone's

Nan	ne:	District:
SAS	ID:	School:
Date	e of Birth:	Grade:

This report provides your child's results from the 2023 Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) tests in English Language Arts (reading and writing) and mathematics.

Information from the RICAS, in combination with other academic and social measures, will help educators assess grade level placement, design specialized instruction, set learning goals, and monitor progress. These tests will allow schools, districts, and RIDE to identify where we need to take action to improve teaching and learning.

These tests help guide critical work to improve outcomes for students. We hope understanding your child's comprehension of ELA and mathematics knowledge and skills will empower you as an advocate for your child. For more information on how to better understand the results, visit https://ride.ri.gov/instructionassessment/assessment/assessment-results.



Your Child's Overall Results

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Achievement Level	Achievement Level
Score	Score
(Score range: 440–560)	(Score range: 440–560)
Growth Percentile	Growth Percentile
Details on page 2	Details on page 3

Did you know that establishing family routines can help your child succeed?

Make a habit of setting up designated times for homework, reading, mealtimes, family conversations, bedtime, and leaving for school each day.

What do I do next?

After reviewing this report, it is critical that you attend family-teacher conferences and discuss with your child's teachers your questions and concerns. Don't be afraid to speak up. Children whose families stress the value of education are more likely to find it important, as well.

How can I support my child's education?

- School attendance matters, every single day. Missing just two days of school a month is chronically absent, so make it a priority to get your child to school on time daily.
- · Establish daily reading routines, let your child see you read, and encourage your child to read for fun all year long.
- Get involved and stay connected to your child's school, however and whenever you can.
 Share your voice! Help improve your child's school by participating in SurveyWorks every year.
- Start a conversation. Ask questions. Talk to your child about what they're learning, and show an interest in the subjects that excite them.

Remember, you are also your child's teacher, and you play an important role in setting your child up for success.



What do these assessment terms mean?

Student Scale Score

- A student receives a scale score between 440 and 560 based on their performance on the test.
- The score indicates how well the student meets the expectations for their grade level, and corresponds to a particular performance level.



Achievement Level

RIDE Rhode Island Department of Education

 RICAS uses four performance levels to describe how well students meet the expectations for their grade level: Not Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, Meeting Expectations, and Exceeding Expectations.

Name Students Tested Performance Meeting or Dickeding Expectations Average Scale Score 2021-22: Statewide: All Grades: All Groups 5999 98.4% 3411 443% 211% 31.1% 4488	-Not Meeting Expectations 8 - English Language Arts/Literacy	tially Mee	ting Exp	ectations 📕 3-Meeting Expectations 📕 4		ow Growth 📗 View Results as Tex	t • Export • Print
2 2021-22: Statewide: All Grades: All Scool 02: All 2021 02: Statewide: All Grades: All Scool 02: All 2021 02: Statewide: All Grades: All Scool 02: All 2021 02:	Name			Performance			
			\$			Expectations	Score
		59399	98.4%	2466 4436	27.1%	31.1%	488

 Meeting Expectations means that students are able to demonstrate grade level expectations; while Exceeding Expectations means that students are showing mastery of the grade level expectations in that content area.

Student Growth Percentile (SGP) On a scale of 1 (least growth) to 99 (most growth), the SGP describes a student's learning over time compared with their academic peers (other Rhode Island students in the same grade who had similar scores on previous state level tests). For example, if a student has an SGP of 80, we can say that student showed more growth between state assessments than 80 percent of their academic peers.

How are reporting categories helpful?

Each content area has reporting categories that correspond to the content domains (topics) of our state's content standards: the <u>RI Core Standards for ELA/Literacy</u> and <u>RI Core Standards for Mathematics</u>.

For example, ELA has 3 reporting categories: Reading, Language, and Writing. Mathematics has 4-5 reporting categories that vary by grade level, but may include domains like Number & Operations, Measurement & Data, and Geometry.

Students received points per item out of the total for each category for their grade level.

Educators and families can then see how well a student performed in those areas in the reporting category and item-level information section of a student's ISR.

Reporting Categ	ory										s Es ur (Tot Pos Poi	sib	•								,	Ave	age	e Po	aint	•						Ea St	ude per	d t nt	M		
																				Г		Sch	ool				Dis	tric	t			Sta	te.						101		
Reading		_												T				_		Γ					Т					Τ											
Language														t				_		F					t					1											
Writing [†]		_	_			_								T				_		Γ					t					1											
The Language report The Writing reports ndividual T	ig ĉi	te ge	ary i	ba	sed	ant	he									es fi		= th				_	_	_			_	_		_	_		_	_	_	_				_	_
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		•	9	10	11	12	13	54	1	1	16	16	17	18	19	29	21	22	22	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	26				L		l	
Question Number			н	-	-		t	+				F	t	t	t	t	t	+							F		F	F	F	F		-	F	F	F	t	+	t	t	t	+

How can I know how students did on particular test questions or items?

- Each item has a total number of points possible for a student to earn.
- The points possible are based on item complexity: items such as essays or items with multiple parts have more points possible because there are more elements (knowledge, skills) that a student is asked to demonstrate.
- On items with multiple points, students can earn partial credit based on performance (e.g., raw score 2 on a 3-point item).

Every year, RIDE releases some of the items from the test for public viewing and use. Computer-based released items may be found on the <u>RICAS Resource Center</u> or in the <u>RICAS Digital</u> <u>Item Library</u>.

Paper-based testing released items can be found at <u>www.ride.ri.gov/RICAS-Released-Items</u>.





How can RICAS results be used?

RICAS is a valid and reliable measure of student performance and can help us understand how our schools are doing in preparing our students with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in postsecondary education and careers.

The aggregate results displayed on the <u>Assessment</u> <u>Data Portal</u> and in the <u>Item Analysis Tool</u> provide an indicator of each school's or district's performance. This can support discussions about where the school or district is doing well and where there is a need for improvement.

When reviewing your student's ISR, look closely at where your student's score falls within the achievement level. If your student's score is not close to Meeting Expectations, talk with your student's teacher for that content area (ELA or mathematics) about how you can work together to help your student catch up.



Item-level information can be used – in conjunction with released items, item descriptions, and other materials – to see where a student is succeeding and where they may need additional support to enhance specific content area skills needed to master grade-level standards.

Assessment reporting is a different calculation than school and district accountability, though accountability does include measures based on students' proficiency in ELA and mathematics on Rhode Island's state assessments. For more information, please go to www.ride.ri.gov/Accountability.



Where can I learn more about RICAS results?

Scanning the QR code on your student's ISR will bring you to RIDE's Resources for Families page at <u>www.ride.ri.gov/Families</u>. This page provides answers to frequently asked questions about content standards, curriculum, and RI's statewide assessments. It also includes resources about student growth percentiles, the RICAS ISRs translated into multiple languages, and the RICAS ISR Guide for Families in the <u>www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment-Families</u> section.

		Department of I	Education 🛅 🚥 🗎 🤾 boot to as
		Q Roderts & Tanjurs Annual Annual	
		To Agent Annual and	
		Residing News	The first to real lating lating out
		tinte + tabatist à Assessed +	innernet + Traceron To Ferdin
		Instruction & Assessment	Resources for Families
Corrections Department of Education	🖾 📾 🔊 🖌 🤉 parati the alta 🛛 🧕	tamater +	Families have an important role in ensuring student success in education.
natura Sandaru B - Taliandar B Ray - Administrativa	Manufaced Availaged basis Paulind -	**************************************	ROE has complete resources for families about content standards, our statewide assessments, learning strategies, and programs that our state supports.
ay lana.execute	Parzen	Assessment requisition is from Structly	Content Standards
g Nexe Biog tarmel for more opticates carrie gos		RGAP Text Coordinator Information	School districts align their curriculum and instruction to content standards to
indian Advancement + Assessment + Assessment Results		Apparent Schedulae	ensure that their madents are prepared with the incodedge and skills they need for each grade level and beyond high school delow are several quantizes about context standards, what they are, and now they are used.
		Assessment's Manualis & Materials	
Assessment	t Results		
This make provides this to the	t Results croate of Noois biandy salicinite assessments, method convertingesiments and some		
This page provides they to the decay you will find results from interpretation materials.	e resulta of Phode Island's stationide suscentrents. en plant and current assessments and acces		
This page provides they to be dense you all this results fro interpretation materials.	c resulta si Risede Laterally atalemide assessmentia.		
This page provides this to be accesses so all this results to interpretation materials. Anoreserver data and interact accesses the Anoreserver data and interact	e route of thread latently subcende associatents. In juan and convert associate for and cook the imports can be finand on the following date:		
This page provides the to be been spin with the result to the spin with the result to the spin with the result to the spin with the spin with the spin wit	enceduar of theme (apply addressive addressive) addressive addressive addressive addressive addressive addressive addressive (addressive) addressive (
The page provides divise to the Development of the result in Development of the result of Development of D	conduct of the end of		
The party process the party of the party process	under Amerikaanse Amer Amerikaanse Amerikaanse Amerika		
This page, provided allow is the dense special with the matching in the provided matching the special with the matching dense special with the special with the dense spe	contract months accurate contract months contract cont		

RIDE's Assessment Results page includes links to the Assessment Data Portal, as well as supporting materials for current and past assessment results (<u>www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment-Results</u>).

Student Data	Рога	578372875			RDE	bowltr (00) User Ro	ie: State Administ
The Divident Data Portal provides confidential s must be appropriately secured at all times whe	thadeed level stat ther in digital or p	ewide assessment perform wint format. This includes a	ance data for use in compliance with ccessing the site securely and, when	resporting data from	retractional and curricula n this sile, saving it to a s	r decisions. Data access scare location.	
My Tested Students My Current S	itudents			E Hern Analysis	Download ISPs	Search for Student	Download Rep
listrict		School			Teachers (0)		
Statewide		• District-wide			All Teachers		
lest		Subgroup			Classes (0)	Class Se	ctions
RICAS - English Language Arts/Literacy		 All Students 		All Classes	 All Sec 	tions	
ichool Year		Grade			Devel		Show
2021-22 ×		All Grades				3154	
1-Not Meeting Expectations = 2-Pr AS - English Language Arts/Literacy					itions Show Growth	View Results as Tex	i Ceporti -
	Students			Meetin	g or Exceeding		
Name	Tested		Performance		De	pectations	Average Sca Score
Name			Performance		D	pectations	

The Assessment Data Portal (<u>www.ride.ri.gov/RIADP</u>) displays school and district performance for all state assessments.

The RICAS Resource Center provides access to released items and practice tests on their student resources page at <u>http://ricas.pearsonsupport.com/student/</u>.

🖡 RI	DE	RIC	AS Resour	ce Center	
d Home	Pernon/a		• Tech Setup	a Test Admin Guidance	► tra



