



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
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NEWS RELEASE

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### **Test Scores Improve in All Grades, All Tests for Third Straight Year Governor Carcieri Releases 2008 NECAP Results**

For the third straight year, statewide test scores in mathematics, reading, and writing improved at all grade levels, according to test results released this morning (Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009) by Governor Donald L. Carcieri.

Results of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) tests administered last October to all students in grades 3 through 8 showed that 68 percent of the students were proficient in reading (up 3 percentage points), 57 percent were proficient in mathematics (up 3 points), and 53 percent were proficient in writing (up 5 points).

In grade 11, 69 percent were proficient in reading (up 7 points), 27 percent were proficient in mathematics (up 5 points), and 41 percent were proficient in writing (up 4 points).

“Since I took office, I have made it a priority to improve education in our state. By implementing rigorous standards and by creating a statewide assessment for elementary-, middle-, and high-school students that is directly tied to these standards, we have set the foundation for our students’ success. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, we have seen statewide improvement in our NECAP results in reading, math, and writing at grades 3 through 8 as well as in these subjects in grade 11 as compared with 2007,” said Governor Donald L. Carcieri. “While we have made major strides, we know we still have work to do, especially in mathematics. We will continue to focus our efforts and gauge our progress. My congratulations to students, teachers, and administrators throughout Rhode Island on their great achievements.”

“These test results are evidence that we are seeing real systemic change in public education in Rhode Island,” said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “The Regents’ mission has been to lower the dropout rate and to prepare our graduates for success in college and the workforce. We can achieve this goal only if students enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade better prepared for high-school work. The improving test scores, particularly the improvements in the middle-school grades, show me that our strategies are proving effective and that our students are making significant progress.”

“I congratulate the students and educators in Rhode Island on these significant improvements,” said Patrick A. Guida, Esq., Vice-Chairman of the Regents. “We have adopted very high standards, and each year more students at all grade levels rise to the challenge. We still have ground to cover, but we are approaching the goal of bringing all students to proficiency.”

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*Over the past four years, scores at all grade levels have improved. The scores by grade are:*

### **Reading**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>One-Year change</b>	<b>4-year change</b>
Grade 3	69	+1	+9
Grade 4	68	+4	+8
Grade 5	68	+2	+8
Grade 6	68	+6	+10
Grade 7	71	+4	+15
Grade 8	65	+4	+10
Grade 11	69	+8	

### **Mathematics**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>One-Year change</b>	<b>4-year change</b>
Grade 3	60	No change	+9
Grade 4	63	+9	+11
Grade 5	60	+3	+8
Grade 6	55	+1	+6
Grade 7	52	+3	+5
Grade 8	53	+5	+5
Grade 11	27	+5	

*Some of the strongest gains in the test scores were seen in the urban districts:*

### **Reading – Grades 3-8**

<b>District Type</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>One-year change</b>	<b>4-year change</b>
Urban	48	+5	+13
Urban Ring	72	+3	+10
Suburban	78	+2	+6

### **Mathematics – Grades 3-8**

<b>District Type</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>One-year change</b>	<b>4-year change</b>
Urban	36	+4	+8
Urban Ring	58	+4	+8
Suburban	70	+3	+5

*The gains in test scores were also seen in all student groups in grades 3-8:*

### **Grades 3-8 – One-Year Gains**

<b>Student Group</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Mathematics</b>
White	+2	+4
Hispanic	+6	+4
Black	+5	+4
Asian	+5	+7
Native American	+1	+1
Students in Poverty	+6	+4
Students with Disabilities	+1	+1
English-language Learners	+5	+4

Over the four-year span that the tests have been administered, Rhode Island students in grades 3-8 have gained 10 points in reading, 2 points in writing, and 7 points in mathematics. (Students in grade 11 have taken the test for only two years.)

“The results released today show improving scores for all grades, all tests, and all student groups,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “Like our other NECAP partners in New Hampshire and Vermont, I remain concerned about the high-school mathematics scores. We are working with colleagues in higher education to improve the mathematics curriculum and instructional practices across the state, which should lead to continued improvements in the high-school scores.”

The NECAP test was developed and administered in partnership with New Hampshire and Vermont, the only multistate testing initiative in the nation. (Maine will join the testing partnership this October.)

Over the next few months, staff members of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) will use these test results and other data to determine the 2009 school-performance classifications.

Reports on the tests results are posted on the RIDE Web site:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/Results.aspx>

See under “October, 2008.”