

RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors English Language Arts

Achievement Level Descriptors

Exceeding Expectations

A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level met grade-level expectations and is academically on track to succeed in the current grade in this subject.

Partially Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level partially met grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should consider whether the student needs additional academic assistance to succeed in this subject.

Not Meeting Expectations

A student who performed at this level did not meet grade-level expectations in this subject. The school, in consultation with the student's parent/guardian, should determine the coordinated academic assistance and/or additional instruction the student needs to succeed in this subject.

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

General: Grades 3 through 8

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites limited textual support for conclusions; incompletely summarizes key details and ideas; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides limited understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of content in diverse media; partially evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites solid textual support for conclusions; appropriately summarizes key details and ideas; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides general understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of content in diverse media; appropriately evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support for conclusions; skillfully summarizes key details and ideas; provides a sophisticated analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases used in a text; provides sophisticated understanding of how structural elements, point of view, or purpose affects the content and style in text(s)</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; shows sophisticated understanding of content in diverse media; insightfully evaluates and analyzes claims and evidence in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade-appropriate texts, topics, or subject areas</p>

	<p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in grade-appropriate texts</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

Grade 3

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites limited textual support; demonstrates incomplete understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a partial description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a limited understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information presented in illustrations; partially compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites solid textual support; demonstrates appropriate understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a mostly complete description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a general understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information presented in illustrations; appropriately compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support; demonstrates in-depth understanding of key details and how they support the main idea; provides a comprehensive description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 3 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); demonstrates a clear understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information presented in illustrations; effectively compares and contrasts important points in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 3 texts, topics, or subject areas</p>

	<p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 3 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts and word relationships in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

Grade 4

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites limited textual support; incompletely summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a partial description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a limited understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information presented in media; partially explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites solid textual support; appropriately summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a mostly complete description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a general understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information present in media; appropriately explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; cites in-depth textual support; skillfully summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a comprehensive description of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 4 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a clear understanding of structural elements and different points of view</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information present in media; effectively explains important points and themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 4 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p>

	Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience	Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience	Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 4 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

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Grade 5

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides limited textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; incompletely summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a limited explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; shows partial understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; partially analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides solid textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; appropriately summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a general explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; shows solid understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; appropriately analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; provides in-depth textual support through the use of quotations or paraphrasing; skillfully summarizes key details and main ideas; provides a comprehensive analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 5 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of words and phrases (e.g., figurative language); provides a clear explanation of how structural elements or points of view influence text(s)</p> <p>Makes effective comparisons between texts; shows clear understanding of information present in multiple sources or media; effectively analyzes important points and themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea or sequenced events, limited organization, and basic expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea or sequenced events, moderate organization, and adequate expression of ideas</p>	<p>Produces clear writing with effective selection and explanation of facts and details related to grade 5 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea or sequenced events, effective organization, and clear expression of ideas</p>

	Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience	Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience	Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows partial understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows sufficient understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 5 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text; shows full understanding of word parts, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

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Grade 6

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; partially integrates information in different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; solidly integrates information in different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of a character, an event, or an idea in grade 6 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; skillfully integrates information in different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 6 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>

	<p>limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 6 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

Grade 7

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes basic comparisons between texts; partially integrates information in different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes appropriate comparisons between texts; solidly integrates information in different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of the interactions of characters, events, or ideas in grade 7 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, connotative, technical) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Makes insightful comparisons between texts; skillfully integrates information in different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in text(s)</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 7 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>

	<p>limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 7 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
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Grade 8

Student results on the RICAS tests are reported according to four achievement levels: *Exceeding Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, and *Not Meeting Expectations*. The descriptors below illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each level. Knowledge and skills are cumulative at each level. No descriptors are provided for the *Not Meeting Expectations* achievement level because students' work at this level, by definition, does not meet the criteria of the *Partially Meeting Expectations* level.

	Partially Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Meeting Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>	Exceeding Expectations <i>On RICAS, a student at this level:</i>
Reading	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to partially support conclusions; incompletely summarizes text; provides a partial analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates partial understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates limited understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides a basic analysis between texts; partially integrates information from different media or formats; partially analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Demonstrates sufficient understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to generally support conclusions; appropriately summarizes text; provides a mostly complete analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates general understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates general understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides an appropriate analysis between texts; solidly integrates information from different media or formats; appropriately analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of what a text implies and states explicitly; uses quotations and paraphrases to insightfully support conclusions; skillfully summarizes text; provides a sophisticated analysis of connections among characters, events, or ideas in grade 8 texts</p> <p>Demonstrates in-depth understanding of meanings (e.g., figurative, ironic, allusive) and effects (e.g., on mood) of words and phrases; demonstrates sophisticated understanding of how structural elements and point of view contribute to the development of ideas</p> <p>Provides an insightful analysis between texts; skillfully integrates information from different media or formats; insightfully analyzes important claims, arguments, or themes in multiple texts</p>
Writing	<p>Produces basic writing with limited selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with little development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces solid writing with appropriate selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p> <p>Produces writing with appropriate development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events;</p>	<p>Produces sophisticated writing with skillful selection and explanation of evidence and details related to grade 8 texts, topics, or subject areas</p>

	<p>limited organization; and basic expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits partial awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>moderate organization; and adequate expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits sufficient awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>	<p>Produces writing with full development of a central idea, a claim, or sequenced events; skillful organization; and rich expression of ideas</p> <p>Exhibits full awareness of task, purpose, and audience</p>
Language	<p>Demonstrates limited reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates limited understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows partial understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates little control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates solid reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates solid understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows sufficient understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates mostly consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>	<p>Demonstrates comprehensive reading vocabulary of grade 8 academic and domain-specific words and phrases</p> <p>Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of unfamiliar words in text and shows full understanding of word parts, figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings</p> <p>Demonstrates consistent control of the standard English conventions of sentence structure, grammar, usage, and mechanics</p>