

# RICAS Item Analysis Resources

October 2019

RIDE has provided analysis tools to assist schools and districts in utilizing the RICAS assessment data as they review and improve curriculum and instruction. This data includes school and district items, as well as, reporting category performance to assist in identifying areas of relative strength and weakness. This data is to be used in conjunction with local curriculum and assessment information.

## (1) Posted Online on the RIDE RICAS Released Items Page

RICAS Item and Subscore Analysis Files - Average computer-based test (CBT) item scores and reporting category scores at the state, district, and school levels. Current versions of the files, available in both Excel and Google Sheets, have been streamlined to include a drop-down menu for school selection. This feature eliminates the need for a user to transfer data from a CSV file.

- These scores are average earned raw score points.
- Scores are calculated by item based on the number of students who attempted the item (non-attempts are not included in the average).
- Students who took the standard computer-based tests are included in the aggregations.
- Students who took paper-based tests or the accommodated form of the computer-based tests are not included in aggregations. Separate paper-based and CBT accommodated form aggregations were not calculated because of small sample sizes.
- Outplaced students are included in district aggregations.
- There is a workbook for each grade and subject RICAS test (for example, grade 8 ELA). Item-level descriptive information (metadata) is in the header of each workbook. This metadata differs across grade and subject but is the same across state, district, and school tabs within each workbook.
- The information included in the header matches that found in the CBT released item answer key/scoring rubrics available at [ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items](https://ricas.pearsonsupport.com/released-items). Item descriptions and correct answers are included in the online answer key documents.
- Data is suppressed where the minimum reporting requirement (at least 10 students) is not met.

<b>Item Number</b>	The item number refers to the position of the item on the operational computer-based test, excluding any field test items. This is the item number referred to when reporting student results for a CBT item.	
<b>Reporting Category (RC)</b>	<b>ELA 3-8:</b> RC 1 - Reading RC 2 - Language RC 3 - Writing	<b>Math 6-7:</b> RC 1 - Ratios & Proportional Relationships RC 2 - The Number System RC 3 - Expressions & Equations

(RC continued...)	<b>Math 3-5:</b> RC 1 - Operations & Algebraic Thinking RC 2 - Number & Operations in Base Ten RC 3 - Number & Operations-Fractions RC 4 - Measurement & Data RC 5 - Geometry	RC 4 - Geometry RC 5 - Statistics & Probability <b>Math 8:</b> RC 1 - The Number System & Expressions/Equations RC 2 - Functions RC 3 - Geometry RC 4 - Statistics and Probability
<b>Standard</b>	Refers to the standard in the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework.	
<b>Item Type</b>	ELA: selected response (SR), constructed response (CR), essay (ES) Math: selected response (SR), short answer (SA), constructed response (CR)	
<b>Item Description</b>	A description of the content assessed by an item.	
<b>Correct Answer</b>	Answers for items are not available if the item was not released and may not be available for a released item depending on the item type.	
<b>Release Status</b>	Indicates whether the item content was released or not released to the public	
<b>Possible Points</b>	The maximum possible raw score points for an item or reporting category.	
<b>Average Points</b>	The average raw score points earned by the grade-level group (state, district, school).	
<b>Percent Correct</b>	Calculation = (Average Points Earned/Total Points Available) x 100 for the grade-level group (state, district, school).	

## (2) Sent to LEA Data Managers through a Secure File Share Site

This file contains student-level item scores and reporting category scores. Use this file with the associated RICAS file layout, which describes each field in the file. This file includes basic information about each student (name, school, and demographic information) as well as information on the student mathematics and English language arts RICAS assessments. A few new fields are included which were not previously present in the file download on the RI Assessment Data Portal:

- **Testing Mode:** This will be important when examining item level performance information. Scores are included for all students, including computer-based tests, paper-based tests, and accommodated computer-based tests. Because items differ across test forms, these scores should not be aggregated together without filtering for testing mode.
- **Attemptedness Information:** In order for a student to receive a score, a student must attempt at least one common (scored) item in each session.
- **Subscores:** Raw points in each of the reporting categories for mathematics and ELA. The crosswalk for the categories is provided on the second tab of the file layout.