

Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS)

for English Language Arts (ELA):

Achievement Level Descriptors

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Introduction

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 in this document illustrate the knowledge and skills students demonstrate on RICAS at each achievement level in that content area for their grade 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.

Scale Scores and Performance Levels.

RICAS uses four performance levels that describe how well student(s) meet the expectations for their grade level. The performance levels correspond to particular ranges for the scale scores that students receive, from 440 to 560.

- **Exceeding Expectations (530-560):** A student who performed at this level exceeded grade-level expectations by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.
- **Meeting Expectations (500-529):** 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 (470-499):** 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 (440-469):** 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>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

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>

**RICAS Achievement Level Descriptors
English Language Arts**

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
English Language Arts**

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>