



State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

March 5, 2021

Dear parents and guardians:

Rhode Island's education system is made up of many related parts that need to work together to provide the best education for our students. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to our schools, and parents, teachers, and administrators have worked together over the past year to address and overcome these challenges. We now need to work together to make sure all students participate in the upcoming statewide assessments- RICAS in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-8, SAT ELA and mathematics in high school, and NGSA for science in grades 5, 8 and 11.

These statewide assessments are important because they provide a consistent, standardized measure that demonstrates student learning. In fact, they provide such important measures of achievement and progress that they are required by federal law. Due to the disruptions in learning caused by COVID-19 it is more important than ever to use these results to plan future instruction.

Everyone wants to be sure each child performs his or her best on their assessments. Parents play an important role in this effort by:

- Ensuring their child arrives on time and ready to participate;
- Making sure their child gets plenty of sleep and eats breakfast before each testing session;
- Encouraging their child to put forth their best effort. Please note that your child does not need to study for these assessments. This is their opportunity to show what they have learned.

I want to stress the importance of sending your child to school to participate in their assigned sessions. I understand that many families are concerned about sending their children to school to take a test due to COVID-19, but your district is taking precautions to ensure that testing environments are safe.

It is important to know the precautions and care that districts will take to keep your child safe during the testing sessions:

- Every student and administrator will be required to wear face masks and wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for frequent use.
- Students will be tested at a safe distance according to RI Department of Health guidelines.

- Rooms and testing equipment will be sanitized thoroughly after each use.
- Additional protective gear, such as plexiglass barriers, gloves, and/or face shields, may be used to maintain a safe testing environment.
- Schools may have additional measures in place to protect your child's health.

Please reach out to your child's teacher so they can provide you with any additional information you need about precautions, your child's testing dates, or time and location of testing. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our students learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "a. Infante-Green".

Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green