Understanding the RICAS Assessment

November 2018
What is the RICAS?

• RICAS is the Rhode Island version of the Massachusetts MCAS grade 3-8 English language arts and math assessment

• Focuses on students’ critical thinking abilities, application of knowledge, and ability to make connections between reading and writing

• Gives a signal of readiness for the next grade level

• Designed to be given on a computer, paper available for students with accommodations

• First given in spring 2018 to replace the PARCC assessment
Score Release

• RICAS scores will be released in November 2018 to districts, schools, and families
• Grade 3-8 students will receive scores for English language arts and mathematics
• Grade 4-8 students with prior PARCC scores will also receive a growth score for English language arts and mathematics
• Families will receive a paper student report from their school
What will the scores look like?

- **Achievement levels**

  - Not Meeting Expectations (440)
  - Partially Meeting Expectations (470)
  - Meeting Expectations (500)
  - Exceeding Expectations (530)
  - Exceeding Expectations (560)

  - 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.

  - 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.

  - 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.

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

- **Aggregate results for schools, districts, and the state**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Your Child's Score</th>
<th>Average Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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</table>
What will the scores look like?

- Student growth percentiles compared to average growth at the school, district, and state

![2018 Student Growth Percentiles](image)
Why did my child score Meet Expectations on PARCC but Partially Meeting Expectations on RICAS?

• In general, the new performance standards for Meeting Expectations on RICAS are **more rigorous** than the standards for Meeting Expectations on PARCC.

• These standards **signal students’ readiness** for the next grade level.

• **Look closely at where your child’s score falls** within the Partially Meeting Expectations category. If it isn’t close to Meeting Expectations, talk with your child’s teacher about how you can work together to help your child catch up.

• Spring 2018 is a **baseline year** for a new test in grades 3-8, and spring 2018 scores **should not be compared** to previous year’s scores.