



Rhode Island State Assessment Program (RISAP) and New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

Understanding the RISAP and NECAP

Rhode Island's system for assessing student progress will be undergoing some big changes in the coming years. Currently, Rhode Island uses the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) as its current assessment program. In coming years, the state will shift to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) program.

The NECAP system has been in place in partnership with Vermont and New Hampshire to serve as the required assessment program as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act. The transition to PARCC represents the state's transition to Common Core Standards for academics, a move away from the current Grade Level and Grade Span Expectations. Starting in the 2013-2014 school year, students will be participating in the PARCC assessments.

The current NECAP state assessment is given in Reading and Mathematics to students in grades 3-8 and 11 in October. The assessments in Science are given to students in 5th, 8th and 11th grade in October; the Writing assessment is given to students in 4th, 8th and 11th grades in May. Some schools are offering these assessments in a computer based format. For students who require testing accommodations per an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) those are provided.

Rhode Island students also take Interim Assessments in their academic subjects which serve as checkpoints for progress. These are given throughout the year. At different points in the year, the Interim Assessments will serve different assessment purposes. Early in the school year such an assessment is diagnostic in nature, it shows what a child knows and can do, and potential areas of academic weakness. At later points these assessments show progress in gaining proficiency in the academic standards laid out by the Grade Level Expectations, the current curriculum framework for Rhode Island.

The assessments are intended for a number of purposes: to monitor students' progress in their education at these various junctures, discover areas of strength and weakness in student performance, determine content areas where there needs an increased emphasis, and to monitor schools progress at helping all students achieve proficiency in the academic subjects.

Taking the RISAP and NECAP

The Rhode Island Grade Level/Span Expectations (GLE/GSE) is a curriculum map that lays out the content required for students to gain proficiency in a subject. The NECAP and other assessments that a student takes is drawn from the expectations and learning objectives that the GLE/GSE's provide.

In Reading, students need to build competency in reading strategies, fluency and accuracy, word identification and vocabulary, literary texts and informational texts. In Writing, students need to be able to master structure, connections and habits of writing and be able to communicate in informational and expressive writing using proper conventions.

In Mathematics, in order to gain proficiency in the subject, students will need to be able to show what they can do in the areas of: numbers and operations, geometry and measurement, functions and algebra, data, statistics and probability, problem solving and reasoning, and communicating and connecting this knowledge. In the Sciences, students are expected to be proficient in the areas of Life, Physical, and Earth and Space Science.

In most districts, passing the NECAP with a minimum Proficiency Level of 2 (Partial Proficiency) in Reading, Writing and Mathematics is a requirement for graduation.

Format of the RISAP and NECAP

Students taking the NECAP Assessment in Reading and Mathematics in grades 3 and 4 have a multiple-choice and constructed-response format exam. In the later grades, longer form writing is expected.

On the NECAP in Reading and Mathematics for grades 5 -8 there are multiple-choice, constructed-response and written answers expected. The Science Assessment given to 5th and 8th graders asks questions in multiple-choice and constructed-response styles.

The high school level NECAP in Reading, Writing and Mathematics asks questions in multiple-choice and constructed-response formats. The Writing Assessment requires a full essay response. The Science Assessment asks only multiple-choice and constructed response questions.

The Interim Assessments may use any of the multiple-choice, constructed-response or essay prompt style questions. All these assessments are aligned to the goals of the Grade Level Expectations, and in the future will be aligned to the Common Core Standards.

Get Your Child Ready for RISAP and NECAP State Testing

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