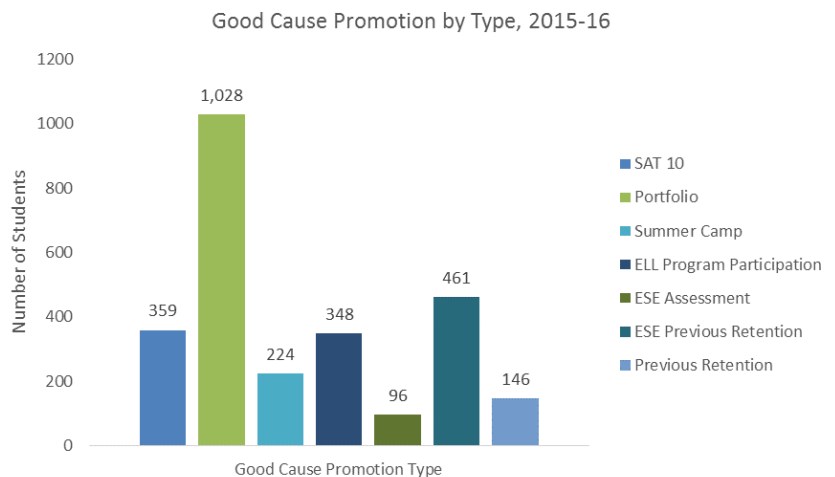
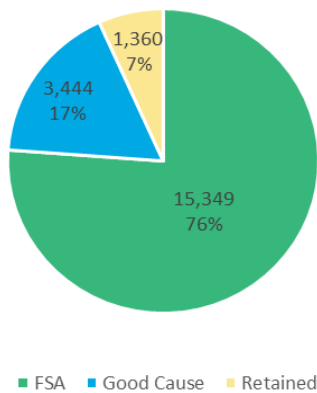


Promotion At A Glance

- District-wide promotion rates were stable at 98% across the three years of the study (97.9%, 98.3%, and 98.1% for 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16, respectively).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 98.5% except for first grade (96.1%), second grade (97.0%), and third grade (93.3%).
- This year’s third grade promotion rate (93.3%) was similar to that of 2013-14 (93.8%). Last year’s third grade promotion rate was uncharacteristically high (96.9%) due to alternative assessments being used in the absence of Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) scores.
- Third-grade Black male students evidenced the lowest promotion rates for the 2015-16 school year at 87.3%; rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 92.1% to 97.8%
- Most third grade students were promoted due to FSA scores (76%), with an additional 17% being promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (29.9%), exceptional student education (ESE) previous retention (13.4%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (10.1%) and the SAT 10 alternative assessment (9.8%).

Third Grade Promotion by Type, 2015-16



Additional Resources

Detailed school-by-school results: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sar/releases>

Student Progression Plan: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DANIEL GOHL
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

DATE: February 21, 2017

TO: All Principals

FROM: Daniel F. Gohl 
Chief Academic Officer

VIA: Valerie S. Wanza, Ph.D.
Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer

SUBJECT: **Promotion Rates for Broward County Public Schools, 2013-14 through 2015-16**

The attached Research Brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years. Rates are provided by demographic group, grade level, and innovation zone. Third grade promotion is also broken out by reason for promotion. Individual school data are provided in the appendices.

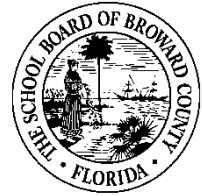
Major findings include:

- District-wide promotion rates were stable across the three years (97.9%, 98.3%, and 98.1% respectively).
- This year's third grade promotion rate (93.3%) was similar to that of 2013-14 (93.8%). Last year's third grade promotion rate was uncharacteristically high (96.9%) due to alternative assessments being used in the absence of Florida Standards Assessment scores. Seventeen percent of third grade students were promoted by Good Cause. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (29.9%), exceptional student education (ESE) previous retention (13.4%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (10.1%) and the SAT 10 alternative assessment (9.8%).
- The promotion rate for third grade Black male students in 2015-16 (87.3%) increased by almost 3 percentage points since 2013-14 (84.5%). The third grade promotion rate for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 92.1% to 97.8%
- Promotion rates varied across innovation zones, with the highest promotion rates occurring in Cooper City (99.5%, $n=5,270$), Stoneman Douglas (99.5%, $n=9,241$), Cypress Bay (99.3%, $n=13,132$), and West Broward (99.3%, $n=5,385$)

Questions or comments concerning this report should be addressed to **Richard Baum, Director of Student Assessment & Research at 754-321-2500**. This brief may also be accessed on the Student Assessment & Research website at: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sar/index.htm>.

VSW/DG/RGB/SLS/ALA/MJO:rs
Attachments

cc: School Board Members
Senior Leadership Team
Directors, Office of School Performance & Accountability



Research Brief

PROMOTION RATES IN BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2013-14 THROUGH 2015-16

This brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years at both District-run and charter schools. An in-depth analysis of third grade promotion is also included, as Third grade is the first grade in which promotion is tied to statewide standardized assessment performance, and is also the grade that consistently has the lowest promotion rate.

BACKGROUND

Information about the criteria for promotion is defined by BCPS Policy 6000.1: Student Progression Plan.¹ Policy 6000.1 offers two options for standard promotion criteria for all elementary school students with the exception of third grade students. To be promoted from third to fourth grade, students must achieve a level 2 or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts (ELA). In addition, the policy delineates criteria for Good Cause Promotion, which includes provisions for students with disabilities (ESE) and English language learners (ELL), and also provides options for promotion based on alternative assessments. At the middle school level (grades six through eight), promotion is indicated when students pass a minimum of four subjects, and at the high school level, students are automatically considered to be in the next grade upon completion of the previous grade. For tenth grade students, earning an achievement level of 3 on both the FSA ELA the Algebra I End-of-Course are a requirement for graduation, but not for promotion. Promotion criteria are summarized in Table 1, below.

¹ BCPS Policy 6000.1 can be found at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>. Note that the policy is frequently amended. A copy of the version applicable to the 2015-16 school year is included in Appendix A.

Table 1

Highlights of Policy 6000.1: Promotion Criteria by Grade Level, 2015-16

Grade	Criteria 1		Criteria 2
KG	Scores Instructional Reading Level 3 or greater on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).	OR	Scores Instructional Reading Level 2 or greater on the Rigby PM Benchmark Assessment.
1	Scores Instructional Reading Level 16 or greater on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).	OR	Scores Instructional Reading Level 16 or greater on the Rigby PM Benchmark Assessment
2	Scores Instructional Reading Level 28 or greater on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA).	OR	Scores Instructional Reading Level 22 or greater on the Rigby PM Benchmark Assessment.
3	Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts.		
4, 5	READING: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts. MATH: Scores Level 2 or greater on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for Mathematics.	OR	READING: Scores 70% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Journeys Common Core 2014 Benchmark Test (Unit 5) Reading and Analyzing Text section (<i>4th Grade</i> - multiple choice items 1-35, pages 147-169) (<i>5th Grade</i> – multiple choice items 1-35, pages 151-178). MATH: Scores 60% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Go Math! Mathematics Florida Standards End Year Test.
6, 7, & 8	Students must pass a minimum of 4 subjects. Two of which must be in English, mathematics, science or social studies. To be promoted from 8 th to 9 th grade, students must successfully complete three middle grades or higher courses in each of the following subject areas: ELA, math, science, and social studies. Additionally, students must complete one course in career and education planning in 6 th , 7 th , or 8 th grade.		
9	Following completion of one year designated as a 9 th grader, the student will be designated a 10 th grader.		
10	Following completion of one year designated as a 10 th grader, the student will be designated as an 11 th grader.		
11	Following completion of one year as an 11 th grader, the student will be designated as a 12 th grader.		

METHOD

Promotion Rates. Data for all three school years were gathered from the District’s Data Warehouse. The promotion rate was calculated by comparing each student’s grade level at the end of the 2015-16 school year to their grade level in the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. Data were pulled on September 6, 2016. A student was defined as promoted if he or she moved up a grade level from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

Data for all District-run and charter schools are summarized by grade level and innovation zone as well as student sub-population including gender, race/ethnicity, free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) status, ELL status, and ESE status.

Third Grade Promotion by Type. Third grade promotion by type was determined by creating a hierarchy of promotion reasons attributed to students. Third grade students in 2015-16 who were promoted to fourth grade at the beginning of 2016-17 were considered to be promoted by FSA if they had an achievement level of 2 or higher on the 2016 FSA for ELA. Of the remaining students, those who had a SAT 10 score in the 45th percentile or higher prior to the conclusion of the 2015-16 school year were considered to be promoted by the SAT 10. Next, students not meeting previously mentioned criteria who had passing scores on the District’s Portfolio assessment were counted as being promoted due to Portfolio. Of the remaining students, those who attended a BCPS school that offered a summer reading camp program for five or more days over the summer and who had an August 2016 SAT 10 score in the 45th percentile or higher, were considered promoted due to summer reading camp. The remaining students were counted for the specific good cause as indicated by the promotion code assigned to them: ELL program participation, ESE alternate assessment, ESE previous retention, and previous retention. Any student who did not meet any of these criteria were not included in the reason for promotion analysis.

RESULTS

PROMOTION FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

Promotion Rate Overall and by Grade. The promotion rate remained stable across the three years (97.9%, 98.3%, and 98.1% for 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16). All grades had a promotion rate of 98.5% or higher in 2015-16 except for first (96.1%), second (97.0%) and third (93.3%) grades (see Table 2). The third grade promotion rate is traditionally the lowest of all the grades as this is the first grade to use a statewide standardized test to determine eligibility for promotion. Although the 2015-16 rate is 3.6 percentage points lower than the previous year, it is only .5 percentage points lower than 2013-14. Last year (2014-15) was an unusual year in that Florida transitioned from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0) to the new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). FSA scores were not released in time for promotion decisions and thus alternate criteria were used.

Table 2

District Promotion Rates by Grade, 2013-14 through 2015-16, including centers and charters.

Grade	School year									3-Year Change (% pts)
	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16			
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%	
KG	18,338	18,061	98.5	18,169	17,916	98.6	18,000	17,722	98.5	0.0
1	19,470	18,687	96.0	19,840	19,086	96.2	19,208	18,457	96.1	0.1
2	18,906	18,341	97.0	19,929	19,372	97.2	20,018	19,417	97.0	0.0
3	19,455	18,252	93.8	20,123	19,504	96.9	20,153	18,793	93.3	-0.5
4	18,150	17,855	98.4	19,109	18,830	98.5	20,085	19,803	98.6	0.2
5	17,519	17,342	99.0	17,935	17,817	99.3	18,694	18,592	99.5	0.5
6	18,188	18,008	99.0	18,223	18,032	99.0	18,664	18,508	99.2	0.2
7	18,886	18,626	98.6	18,602	18,366	98.7	18,554	18,404	99.2	0.6
8	18,273	17,954	98.3	18,523	18,174	98.1	18,218	18,005	98.8	0.5
9	18,588	18,461	99.3	19,204	19,068	99.3	19,019	18,917	99.5	0.2
10	18,546	18,319	98.8	18,670	18,449	98.8	18,985	18,812	99.1	0.3
11	18,314	18,099	98.8	18,431	18,259	99.1	18,270	18,099	99.1	0.3
Total	222,633	218,005	97.9	226,758	222,873	98.3	227,868	223,529	98.1	0.2

Promotion by Student Sub-population. Table 3 presents District-wide promotion rates, disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and by special populations for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years. The promotion rate for ELL students increased by 1.1 percentage points, and for ESE students by 0.7 points. Rates for all other sub-groups remained stable across the three years. See also Appendix B for school level summaries of promotion rates by student sub-group.

Table 3

District Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity, and Special Populations 2013-14 through 2015-16

Group	School year									
	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16			
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%	
Gender										
Female	108,541	106,926	98.5	110,592	109,223	98.8	111,362	109,753	98.6	
Male	114,092	111,079	97.4	116,166	113,650	97.8	116,506	113,776	97.7	
Race/Ethnicity										
Black	87,259	84,660	97.0	88,746	86,619	97.6	88,072	85,698	97.3	
Hispanic	67,409	66,177	98.2	70,984	69,938	98.5	74,141	72,861	98.3	
White	53,159	52,530	98.8	51,889	51,336	98.9	50,337	49,821	99.0	
Special Subgroups										
ELL	21,310	20,403	95.7	31,969	31,133	97.4	37,029	35,855	96.8	
ESE	26,131	24,801	94.9	26,877	25,837	96.1	27,238	26,046	95.6	
FRL	141,835	138,021	97.3	147,636	144,443	97.8	143,292	139,635	97.4	

Promotion by Innovation Zone. Table 4 lists promotion rates by innovation zone for students in kindergarten through eleventh grade for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years. The rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates from the 2013-14 to 2015-16 school years. The table is sorted from highest to lowest promotion rate for the 2015-16 school year.

Table 4
Promotion by Innovation Zone, 2013-14 through 2015-16

Innovation Zone	School year									3 Year Diff (% pts.)
	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16			
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%	
Cooper City	5,046	4,983	98.8	5,105	5,076	99.4	5,295	5,270	99.5	0.7
Stoneman Douglas	8,691	8,601	99.0	5,229	5,197	99.4	9,292	9,241	99.5	0.5
Cypress Bay	12,297	12,216	99.3	12,859	12,777	99.4	13,230	13,132	99.3	0.0
West Broward	5,276	5,238	99.3	8,957	8,896	99.3	5,424	5,385	99.3	0.0
Nova	4,698	4,668	99.4	4,859	4,822	99.2	5,018	4,968	99.0	-0.4
Everglades	7,071	6,947	98.2	5,473	5,427	99.2	6,823	6,751	98.9	0.7
Taravella	8,308	8,176	98.4	6,595	6,532	99.0	8,616	8,520	98.9	0.5
Western	6,497	6,431	99.0	6,937	6,858	98.9	6,710	6,630	98.8	-0.2
Coral Glades	5,155	5,068	98.3	6,089	6,016	98.8	5,253	5,178	98.6	0.3
Flanagan	8,018	7,890	98.4	8,377	8,275	98.8	7,555	7,448	98.6	0.2
Monarch	6,769	6,669	98.5	4,890	4,829	98.8	7,033	6,933	98.6	0.1
Northeast	4,814	4,697	97.6	7,019	6,926	98.7	4,876	4,792	98.3	0.7
South Plantation	5,395	5,297	98.2	6,229	6,141	98.6	5,319	5,231	98.3	0.1
Coconut Creek	8,151	7,966	97.7	8,294	8,170	98.5	8,091	7,944	98.2	0.5
Hollywood Hills	7,153	6,969	97.4	7,615	7,499	98.5	6,769	6,646	98.2	0.8
Coral Springs	6,075	5,959	98.1	7,006	6,896	98.4	6,326	6,208	98.1	0.0
Miramar	6,879	6,719	97.7	8,619	8,475	98.3	6,477	6,356	98.1	0.4
McArthur	5,818	5,652	97.1	8,597	8,448	98.3	5,836	5,715	97.9	0.8
Plantation	5,249	5,118	97.5	5,728	5,622	98.1	5,178	5,071	97.9	0.4
Piper	8,477	8,296	97.9	5,204	5,107	98.1	7,868	7,698	97.8	-0.1
Fort Lauderdale	6,186	6,108	98.7	5,376	5,272	98.1	6,531	6,378	97.7	-1.0
Blanche Ely	8,725	8,535	97.8	5,322	5,218	98.0	8,639	8,428	97.6	-0.2
Boyd Anderson	9,178	8,868	96.6	4,728	4,627	97.9	7,856	7,653	97.4	0.8
Hallandale	5,175	5,013	96.9	5,308	5,192	97.8	5,128	4,989	97.3	0.4
Deerfield Beach	6,321	6,088	96.3	6,448	6,307	97.8	6,421	6,239	97.2	0.9
South Broward	5,242	5,155	98.3	6,806	6,654	97.8	5,376	5,222	97.1	-1.2
Stranahan	4,740	4,608	97.2	7,168	6,994	97.6	4,780	4,643	97.1	-0.1
Dillard	7,115	6,881	96.7	9,658	9,308	96.4	7,167	6,952	97.0	0.3

THIRD GRADE PROMOTION

Third Grade Promotion by Type. The majority of 2015-16 third grade students (76%; $n=15,349$) were promoted to fourth grade by scoring an achievement level of 2 or higher on the FSA for ELA. An additional 3,444 students were promoted by good cause (17%), while the remaining 7% ($n=1,360$) were retained (Figures 1 and 2).

Distribution of 3rd Grade Promotion and Retention

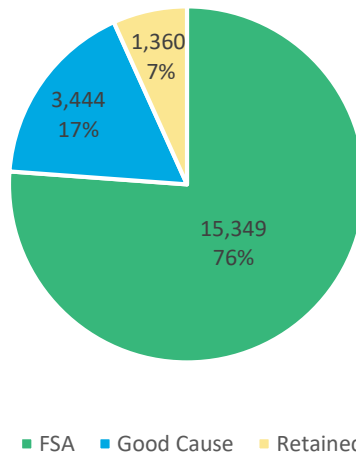


Figure 1. Distribution of 2015-16 third grade promotion and retention by type.

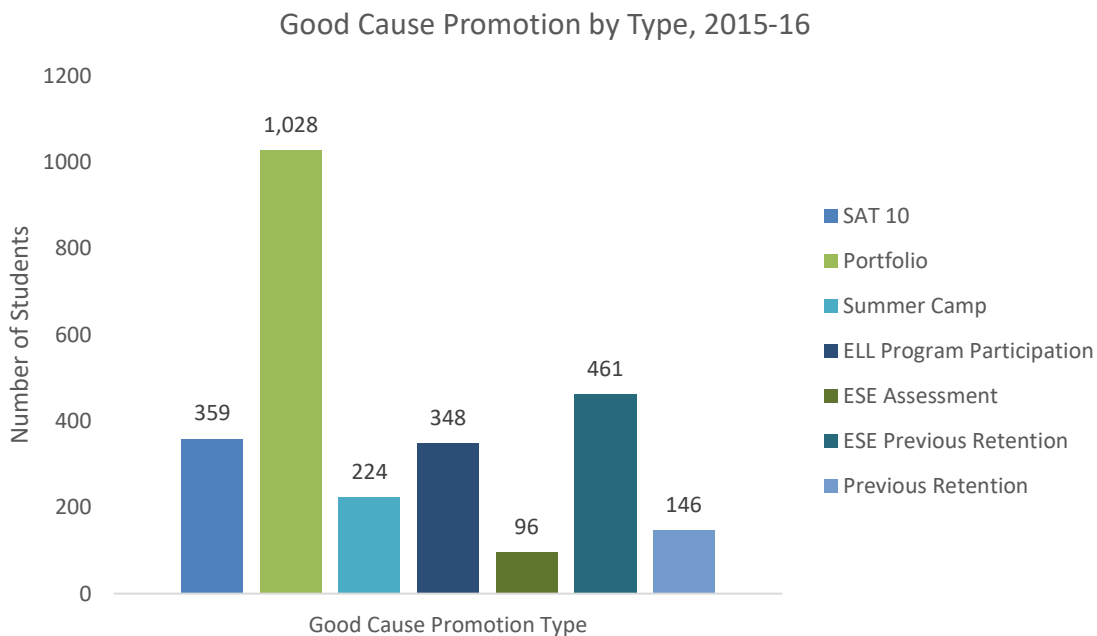


Figure 2. Distribution of 2015-16 good cause promotion by specific type. Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be verified for 782 students.

Third Grade Promotion by Race/Ethnicity by Gender. Figure 3 illustrates promotion rates of Black, Hispanic, and White third grade BCPS students by gender for the 2015-16 school year. The figure shows that, regardless of ethnic group, females in general had higher promotion rates than males. The White female subgroup had higher promotion rates than Hispanic female students, who had higher rates than Black female students (97.8%, 95.3%, and 92.1%, respectively). See also Appendix B for school-level promotion rates by gender and race/ethnicity.

The gender gap was greatest among Black students. That is, for the Black student subgroup there was a 4.8 percentage point gap between female and male students. Hispanic had a 2.4 percentage point gap, and White students had a 1.1 percentage point gap. In each case, females exhibited the higher promotion rate. Overall, the highest promotion rates were for White females (97.8%), followed closely by White males (96.7%).

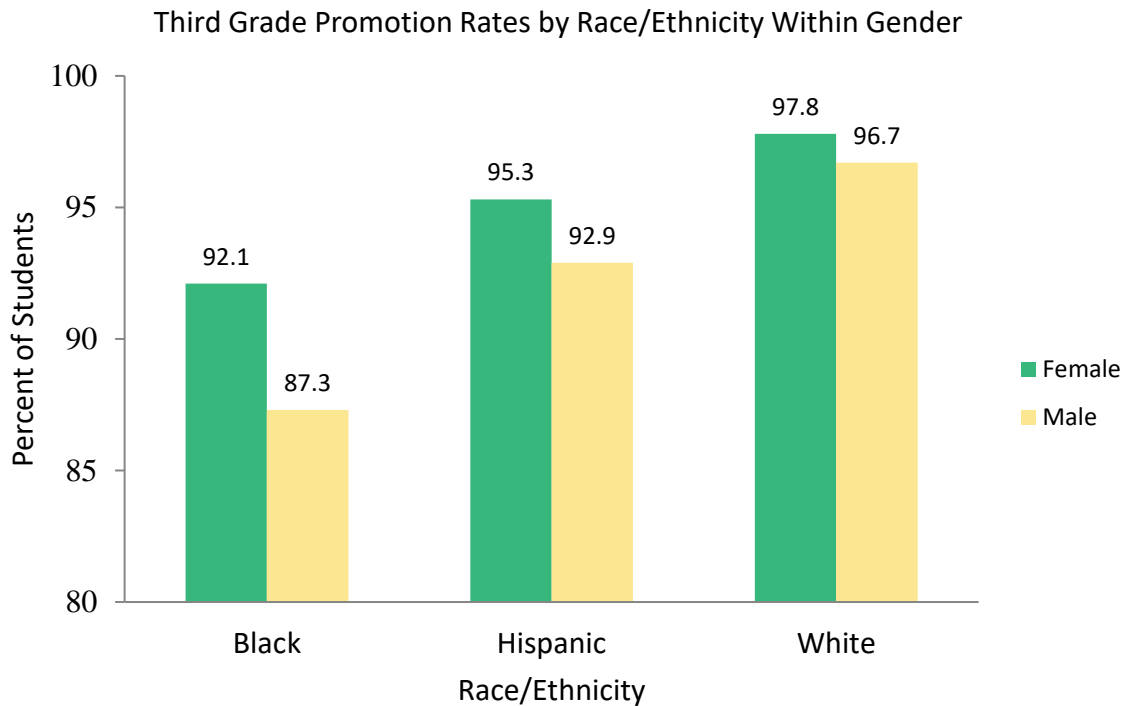


Figure 1. Third-Grade Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity within Gender, 2015-16.

Figures 4a and 4b present District-wide third-grade promotion rate gaps by gender for the Black, Hispanic, and White student subgroups for 2013-14 through 2015-16. For both genders, the gap between Black and White students and between Hispanic and White students increased by one percentage point.

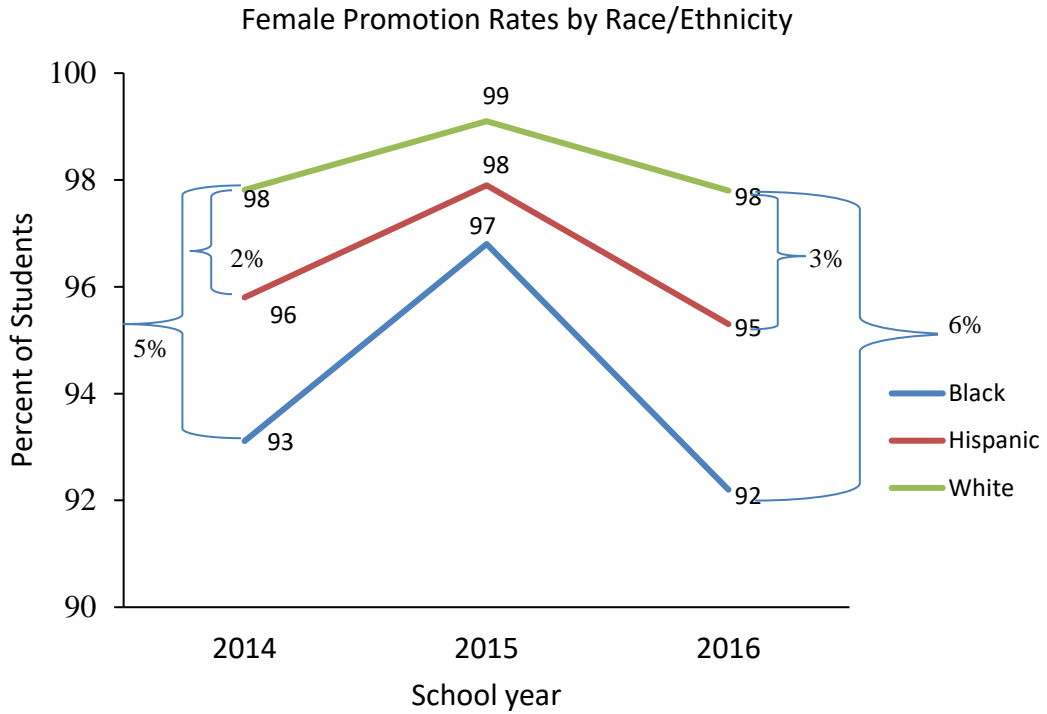


Figure 2a. Third-Grade Female Promotion Rate Gaps, 2014-2016.

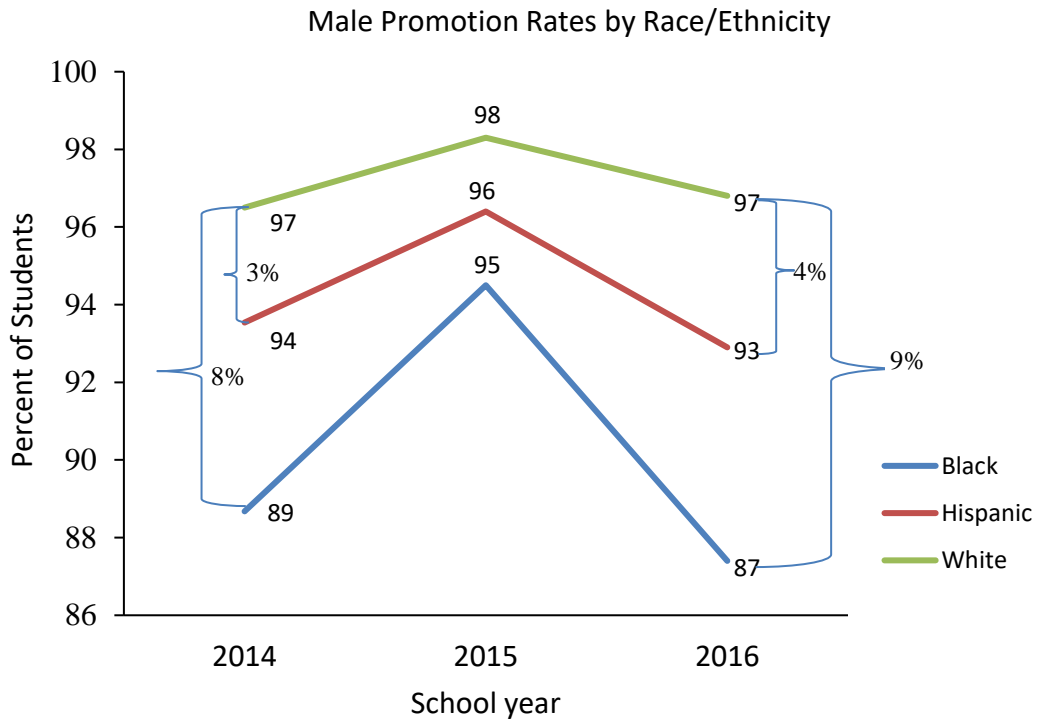


Figure 2b. Third-Grade Male Promotion Rate Gaps, 2014-2016.

Discussion

Promotion rates were examined for Kindergarten through eleventh grade students enrolled in traditional schools, centers, and charter schools for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years. Overall, promotion rates for all grade levels increased or remained stable across the three years with the exception of third grade which decreased by 0.5 percentage points. Looking at the one-year change between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the third grade promotion dropped 3.6 percentage points. This difference is an artifact of the alternative promotion criteria used in 2014-15 which was utilized in the absence of the new FSA scores.

Third grade Black males had substantially lower rates compared to all of the other racial/gender groups combined. For this grade, gaps between males and females for each of the three main racial/ethnic groups traditionally exist such that White students evidence the highest promotion rate, followed by Hispanic students, and then Black students, with females following the same racial pattern but experiencing a higher promotion rate than males. Promotion rates for ELL and ESE students increased slightly (1.1 and 0.7 percentage points, respectively) across the three years. Promotion rates for all other student sub-populations remained stable across the three years.

Five innovation zones had overall promotion rates at 99% or greater (Cooper City, Cypress Bay, Nova, Stoneman Douglas, and West Broward). Seventeen zones saw an increase in promotion rate, with the largest increases occurring at Boyd Anderson and Hollywood Hills (0.8 percentage points), and Cooper City, Everglades, and Northeast (0.7 percentage points). Seven schools experienced a decrease in promotion rate, with South Broward and Fort Lauderdale having the largest decreases (1.2 percentage points and 1.0 percentage points, respectively)

Further information regarding student performance at specific schools is included in the appendix (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sar/>). This information is provided to assist directors and principals in identifying high performing elementary and middle schools for ideas on best practices and to identify low performing elementary and middle schools in need of extra assistance. Since the District's current high school promotion policy is based upon students' time enrolled in high school rather than credits earned, school staff and principals are advised to review student progress toward graduation through school reports and online applications such as the Behavioral Academic Student Information System (BASIS).

APPENDICES

Appendix A presents the BCPS Policy 6000.1 as it pertains to the 2015-16 school year.

Appendix B presents school-level summaries of promotion rates for the 2015-16 school year, disaggregated by grade level for the District's three largest student racial/ethnic subgroups (Black, Hispanic, and White) as well as gender and special population (FRL, ESE, ELL).

Appendix B presents school-level promotion rates by gender for the District's three largest student racial/ethnic groups (Black, Hispanic, and White).

Note that data were not displayed for any grade level at any school or center with an enrollment of ten or less students in order to protect confidentiality. This is in accordance with policy guidance from the Florida Department of Education.

REFERENCES

School Board of Broward County, Florida. (2015, September 16). Policy 6000.1: Student Progression Plan. Retrieved September 16, 2016, from <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>

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