

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STRATEGY & OPERATIONS OFFICER**

**Maurice L. Woods
Chief Strategy & Operations Officer**

Signatures on File

March 9, 2015

TO: All Principals

FROM: Maurice L. Woods
Chief Strategy & Operations Officer

VIA: Desmond K. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer

SUBJECT: **PROMOTION RATES FOR BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2011-12, 2012-13,
AND 2013-14**

Student Assessment & Research staff examined promotion rates for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 2011-12 through 2013-14 school years at the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels. The attached Research Brief presents promotion data summarized by grade level and demographic group. Major findings include the following:

- At the elementary, middle, and high school grade levels and subgroups, District-wide promotion rates were stable across the three years of the study; 97.9% in 2011-12, 97.7% in 2012-13, and 97.9% in 2013-14.
- Grades 1 to 3 show some fluctuations in promotion rates across the three years of the study due to criterion based promotion requirements.
- Middle and High school promotion rates were greater than 98.3% across the three years of the study.
- Ninth-grade students registered the highest promotion rates at 99.3% for the 2013-14 school year.
- Third-grade Black male students evidenced the lowest promotion rates for the 2013-14 school year at 88.7% (up from 87% in 2012); rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 93.1 – 97.8%
- The innovation zones with the highest promotion rates were Nova (99.4%; $n=4,668$), Cypress Bay (99.3%; $n=12,216$), and West Broward (99.3%; $n=5,238$).

The following next steps are suggested:

Cadre directors or principals:

School cadre directors and principals are encouraged to identify schools within their area that registered high promotion rates, and communicate with school staff regarding best practices.

School staff:

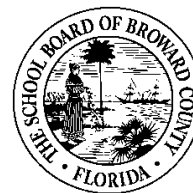
School staff should identify student groups within each grade level that registered low promotion rates and identify and target appropriate interventions to enable students to meet promotion criteria.

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

DKB/MLW/NB/RGB/ALA/RKK:rs
Attachments

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

Research Brief



Promotion Rates for Broward County Public Schools, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14

Trends in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) promotion rates¹ for the 2011-12 through 2013-14 school years were examined at the elementary, middle, and high school levels using district-wide data from traditional schools, centers, and charter schools. This report examines promotion rates by specific student factors such as grade, racial and gender group, and whether or not a student receives free or reduced lunch, is an English language learner, or has a disability. An in-depth look at third-graders is presented since this is the first year student promotion is based on standardized assessment tests, and is also typically the year with the lowest promotion rate. Promotion rate by innovation zone is also included.

Background

The District's Student Progression Plan specifies requirements for grade placement. The policy (Policy 6000.1 website: <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>) indicates that a student's progress is to be based upon classroom work, observations, tests, District and State assessments, and other relevant information (The School Board of Broward County, Florida, 2011). The policy specifically indicates that no single assessment is the sole determiner of promotion. Promotion criteria are summarized in Table 1 for each grade level. Promotion at the elementary school level is awarded when students meet either criteria 1 or criteria 2. In addition, Policy 6000.1 also delineates criteria for Good Cause Promotion² which includes provisions for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English Language Learners (ELL). At the middle school level, promotion is based on students earning a minimum amount of credits; and at the high school level, students are automatically considered to be in the next grade after completing the previous grade. Note that performance on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT 2.0) is one of the factors for promotion at the elementary school level. At the high school level, FCAT 2.0 is a factor for graduation only.³

¹To calculate a promotion rate, each student's grade level at the end of 2013-14 school year was compared to their grade level in the 2014-15 school year as of the 10th day. Further methodological details are available in promotion/retention reports released in prior years on the Student Assessment & Research website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sar/Releases.htm>.

²Grades K – 5 alternative promotion criteria: Good Cause states a variety of alternative reasons students may be promoted, including performance on state-approved alternative assessments, previously retained students who have received intensive reading intervention, students with less than two years of English, and students with disabilities. In these cases teachers and principals can recommend students for promotion, with ultimate approval being made by the superintendent.

³Note high school graduation rates are examined separately from promotion rates and are reported via the High School Graduation Rates and Dropout Rates Memo released annually by the Student Assessment and Research department.

Table 1

Policy 6000.1: Promotion Criteria by Grade Level, 2013-14

Grade	Criteria 1		Criteria 2
KG	48 out of 52 Letter Names AND 20 out of 26 Letter Sounds AND 15 out of 21 Concepts of Print.	OR	Scores 50% or greater in Probability of Literacy Success (PLS) on the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading - Florida Standards (FAIR-FS) during Assessment Period #3.
1, 2	Scores 55% or greater (Grade 1) and 65% or greater (Grade 2) on the Primary End of Year Reading Test that aligns with the Florida Standards in reading comprehension.	OR	Scores 70% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Journeys Common Core 2014 Benchmark Test (Unit 5) Reading and Analyzing Text section.
3	Scores at or above Achievement Level 2 on the statewide reading assessment.	OR	Scores 45th percentile or greater on the current version of the Stanford Achievement Test in reading comprehension.
4, 5	Students must score at or above Achievement Level 2 on the statewide reading and mathematics assessments.	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 (Fourth Grade: multiple choice items 1-35, pages 147-169, Fifth Grade: multiple choice items 1-35, pages 151-178). MATH: Scores 60% or greater on the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Florida Go Math Common Core End of 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.		
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.		

Results

Table 2 displays the District's promotion rates (including centers and charters) by grade level for the past three school years. The rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates from the 2011-12 to 2013-14 school years.

Table 2

District (including centers and charters) Promotion Rates by Grade, 2011-12 to 2013-14

Grade	2011-12			2012-13			2013-14			Prom
	Promoted			Promoted			Promoted			Diff
	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	(% pts.)
KG	18,248	17,991	98.6	18,860	18,541	98.3	18,338	18,061	98.5	-0.1
1	18,495	17,865	96.6	18,951	18,184	96.0	19,470	18,687	96.0	-0.6
2	18,431	17,984	97.6	18,654	18,023	96.6	18,906	18,341	97.0	-0.6
3	18,712	17,435	93.2	19,340	17,799	92.0	19,455	18,252	93.8	0.6
4	18,235	17,888	98.1	18,079	17,685	97.8	18,150	17,855	98.4	0.3
5	18,232	18,083	99.2	17,899	17,746	99.1	17,519	17,342	99.0	-0.2
6	18,630	18,427	98.9	18,689	18,505	99.0	18,188	18,008	99.0	0.1
7	18,603	18,368	98.7	18,982	18,699	98.5	18,886	18,626	98.6	-0.1
8	18,150	17,814	98.1	18,243	17,907	98.2	18,273	17,954	98.3	0.2
9	19,315	19,152	99.2	18,718	18,620	99.5	18,588	18,461	99.3	0.1
10	18,213	17,945	98.5	19,000	18,782	98.9	18,546	18,319	98.8	0.3
11	18,276	17,924	98.1	17,603	17,364	98.6	18,314	18,099	98.8	0.7
Total	221,540	216,876	97.9	223,018	217,855	97.7	222,633	218,005	97.9	0.0

District-wide promotion rates remained stable across the three years of study. In the 2013-14 school year, ninth-grade registered the highest promotion rate (99.3%); while third-grade registered the lowest promotion rate (93.8%). This is to be expected because third-grade is the starting grade where promotion is tied to performance on state-mandated tests in reading on Florida’s Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT 2.0). Further review of high school promotion rates, excluding charter schools and centers, revealed a promotion rate of 99.0%.

Table 3 presents District-wide (including centers and charters) promotion rates, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, and by special populations for the 2011-12 through 2013-14 school years. In 2013-14, promotion rates ranged from 97.0% for Black students to 98.8% for White students. Gender data indicates a stable promotion rate for both female and male students. Promotion rates for ELL, ESE, and FRL remained relatively stable across the three years study.

Table 3

District Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity, and Special Populations 2011-12 through 2013-14

Year	2011-12			2012-13			2013-14		
	Percent Promoted			Percent Promoted			Percent Promoted		
	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%
Gender									
Female	107,898	106,200	98.4	108,642	106,853	98.4	108,541	106,926	98.5
Male	113,642	110,676	97.4	114,376	111,002	97.1	114,092	111,079	97.4
Race/Ethnicity									
Black	86,299	83,432	96.7	87,302	84,426	96.7	87,259	84,660	97.0
Hispanic	64,168	63,114	98.4	65,826	64,459	97.9	67,409	66,177	98.2
White	56,255	55,667	99.0	55,134	54,444	98.7	53,159	52,530	98.8
Special Subgroups									
ELL	19,755	18,929	95.8	21,530	20,473	95.1	21,310	20,403	95.7
ESE	25,273	24,179	95.7	25,687	24,389	94.9	26,131	24,801	94.9
FRL	132,108	128,299	97.1	134,057	129,888	96.9	141,835	138,021	97.3

Figure 1 illustrates promotion rates of Black, Hispanic, and White third-grade BCPS students by gender for the 2013-14 school year.

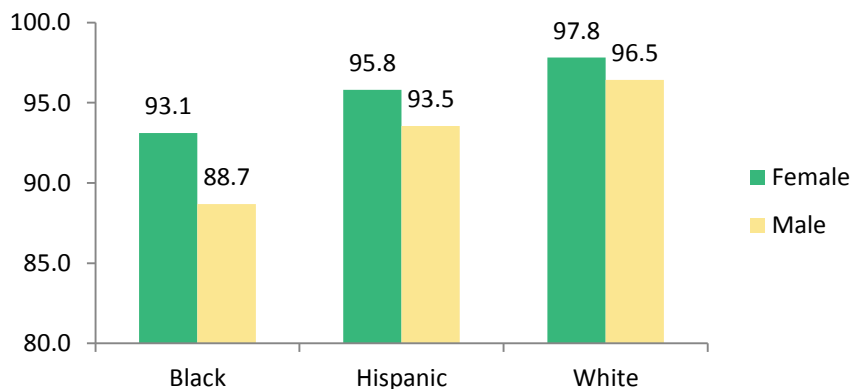


Figure 1. Third-Grade Promotion Rates by Race within Gender, 2013-14.

As presented in Figure 1, females in general had higher promotion rates than males, and White students had higher promotion rates than Hispanic students, who had higher rates than Black students. The highest promotion rates were for White females (97.8%), followed by White males (96.5%), Hispanic females (95.8%), Hispanic males (93.5%), Black females (93.1%), and finally Black males with a promotion rate of 88.7%. The gap between Black males and Black females (4.4%) was almost as large as the range of the other five racial/gender combinations (4.7%).

Figures 2a and 2b present District-wide (including centers and charters) third-grade promotion rate gaps, by Gender for Black, Hispanic, and White students from 2011-12 through 2013-14. As shown in the figures, the gaps between both genders remained stable or decreased.

- Females (2a): gaps between Black and White, decreased from 7% in 2012 to 5% in 2014; gaps between Hispanic and White decreased from 3% in 2012 to 2% in 2014.
- Males (2b): gaps between Black and White decreased from 10% in 2012 to 8% in 2014; gaps between Hispanic and White remained stable at 3% in both 2012 and 2014.

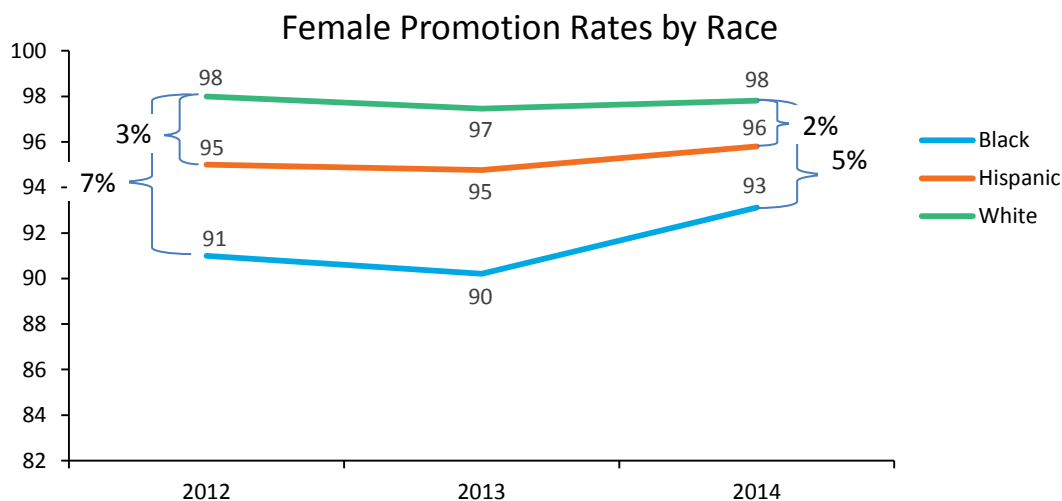


Figure 2a. Third-Grade Female Promotion Rate Gaps, 2012-2014.

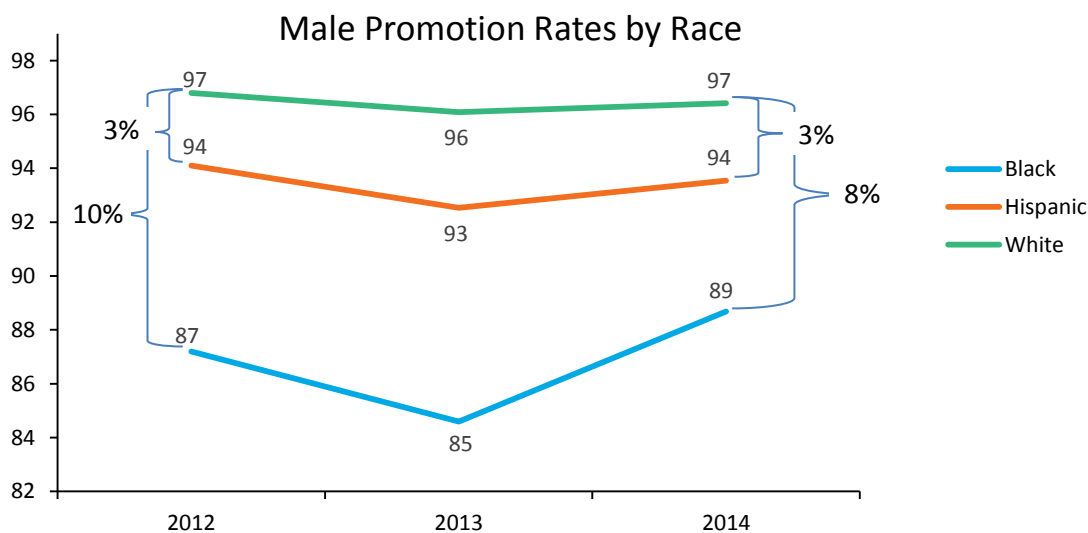


Figure 2b. Third-Grade Male Promotion Rate Gaps, 2012-2014.

Table 4 lists promotion rates by innovation zone for students in kindergarten through eleventh grade for the 2011-12 through 2013-14 school years. The rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates for the 2011-12 to 2013-14 school years. (The table is sorted such that the innovation zones with the highest promotion rate for the 2013-14 school year appear on top.) The innovation zones with the highest promotion rates were Nova (99.4%, $n=4,668$), Cypress Bay (99.3%, $n=12,216$), and West Broward (99.3%, $n=5,238$).

Table 4
Promotion by Innovation Zone, 2011-12 through 2013-14

Innovation Zone	Promotion 2011-12			Promotion 2012-13			Promotion 2013-14			Promotion Diff
	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	(% pts.)
Nova	4,468	4,438	99.3	4,471	4,420	98.9	4,698	4,668	99.4	0.1
Cypress Bay	12,465	12,417	99.6	12,410	12,306	99.2	12,297	12,216	99.3	-0.3
West Broward	5,530	5,515	99.7	5,456	5,405	99.1	5,276	5,238	99.3	-0.4
Western	6,795	6,672	98.2	6,648	6,561	98.7	6,497	6,431	99.0	0.8
Stoneman Douglas	8,774	8,725	99.4	8,814	8,731	99.1	8,691	8,601	99.0	-0.4
Cooper City	5,043	5,007	99.3	5,057	4,986	98.6	5,046	4,983	98.8	-0.5
Fort Lauderdale	5,944	5,715	96.1	5,800	5,712	98.5	6,186	6,108	98.7	2.6
Monarch	6,638	6,582	99.2	6,793	6,689	98.5	6,769	6,669	98.5	-0.7
Taravella	9,158	9,096	99.3	8,533	8,389	98.3	8,308	8,176	98.4	-0.9
Flanagan	9,293	9,132	98.3	8,597	8,436	98.1	8,018	7,890	98.4	0.1
South Broward	5,967	5,805	97.3	5,544	5,414	97.7	5,242	5,155	98.3	1.0
Coral Glades	5,519	5,409	98.0	5,267	5,200	98.7	5,155	5,068	98.3	0.3
Everglades	7,706	7,628	99.0	7,451	7,299	98.0	7,071	6,947	98.2	-0.8
South Plantation	5,967	5,805	97.3	5,431	5,333	98.2	5,395	5,297	98.2	0.9
Coral Springs	6,231	6,153	98.7	6,040	5,923	98.1	6,075	5,959	98.1	-0.6
Piper	10,185	9,934	97.5	9,549	9,371	98.1	8,477	8,296	97.9	0.4
Blanche Ely	9,229	8,950	97.0	9,194	8,985	97.7	8,725	8,535	97.8	0.8
Coconut Creek	7,975	7,719	96.8	7,767	7,575	97.5	8,151	7,966	97.7	0.9
Miramar	7,551	7,308	96.8	7,215	7,046	97.7	6,879	6,719	97.7	0.9
Northeast	4,595	4,544	98.9	4,664	4,561	97.8	4,814	4,697	97.6	-1.3
Plantation	5,237	5,165	98.6	5,420	5,268	97.2	5,249	5,118	97.5	-1.1
Hollywood Hills	6,963	6,851	98.4	7,294	7,066	96.9	7,153	6,969	97.4	-1.0
Stranahan	5,030	4,848	96.4	4,842	4,739	97.9	4,740	4,608	97.2	0.8
McArthur	5,812	5,616	96.6	5,884	5,694	96.8	5,818	5,652	97.1	0.5
Hallandale	5,003	4,830	96.5	5,091	4,911	96.5	5,175	5,013	96.9	0.4
Dillard	7,274	7,108	97.7	7,688	7,324	95.3	7,115	6,881	96.7	-1.0
Boyd Anderson	9,201	8,885	96.6	9,796	9,360	95.5	9,178	8,868	96.6	0.0
Deerfield Beach	6,091	5,966	97.9	6,332	6,098	96.3	6,321	6,088	96.3	-1.6

Appendix A presents school-level summaries of promotion rates for the 2013-14 school year, disaggregated by grade level for the District's three largest student subgroups (Black, Hispanic, and White), gender, and special populations. Similarly, Appendix B presents school-level promotion rates by gender for the District's three largest student subgroups Black, Hispanic, and White. To maintain the privacy rights of students, frequency data are not displayed for any grade level at any school or center where the enrollment was fewer than ten students, which is in accordance with policy guidance from the Florida Department of Education.

Discussion

District-wide data on promotion rates for all students enrolled in traditional, centers, and charter schools for the 2011-2012 through 2013-2014 school years were analyzed in this report. Overall promotion rates remained stable across the three years of study. Rates between grades were also relatively stable, with the exception of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades which were lower than the others. The lowest promotion rate was found in third grade, which is likely due to it being the first year that promotion is tied to achievement level on standardized tests. A closer examination of the promotion rates in 3rd grade reveals a disparity between racial/gender groups with Black males having substantially lower rates than all of the other groups combined. For this grade, gaps between males and females for each of the three main racial groups traditionally exist such that White students evidence the highest promotion rate, followed by Hispanic students, followed by Black students, with girls following the same racial pattern but experiencing a higher promotion rate than boys. While the pattern remains the same over this three-year period, the gaps between Black students and the other two groups decreased.

English Language Learners (ELL) and students with disabilities (ESE) registered lower promotion rates by 2-3%, while student receiving free or reduced lunch (FRL) had about the same rate as the overall average.

Five innovative zones had overall promotion rates of 99% or greater (Cypress Bay, Nova, Stoneman Douglas, West Broward and Western). Two zones increased by at least 1% over the three-year period (Fort Lauderdale and South Broward), while five zones decreased by at least 1% (Deerfield Beach, Dillard, Northeast, Plantation, and Hollywood Hills).

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).

References

- School Board of Broward County, Florida. (2014, September 2). Policy 6000.1: Student Progression Plan. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Author. Retrieved October 17, 2014, from <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>
- School Board of Broward County, Florida. (2013, September). *Promotion Rates for Broward County Public Schools, 2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13*. Research Brief #163. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Author. Retrieved October 17, 2014, from <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sar/releases/briefs/PromotionRetention2012-13v6.pdf>

Prepared by

Armando Abreu, Database Researcher III, Student Assessment & Research
Rhonda Knabb, Database Researcher I, Student Assessment & Research

The School Board of Broward County, Florida

Donna P. Korn, Chair
Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Vice Chair
Robin Bartleman
Heather P. Brinkworth
Abby M. Freedman
Patricia Good,
Laurie Rich Levinson
Ann Murray
Nora Rupert

Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

The School Board of Broward County, Florida prohibits any policy or procedure that results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, race, religion, or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Executive Director, Benefits & EEO Compliance at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.