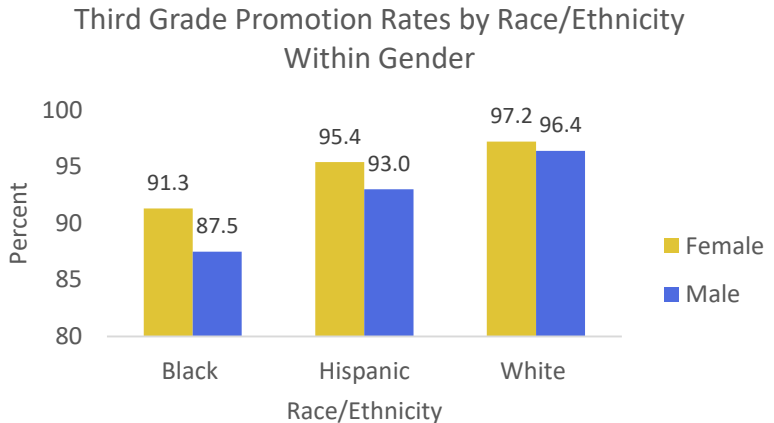


2017-18 Promotion Rate
Overall
97.9%
Third grade
93.0%

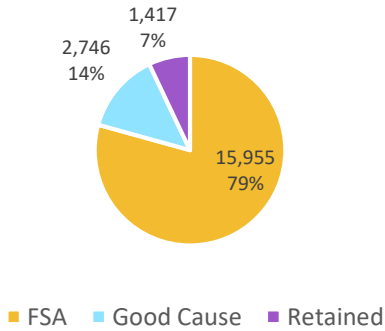


Promotion At A Glance

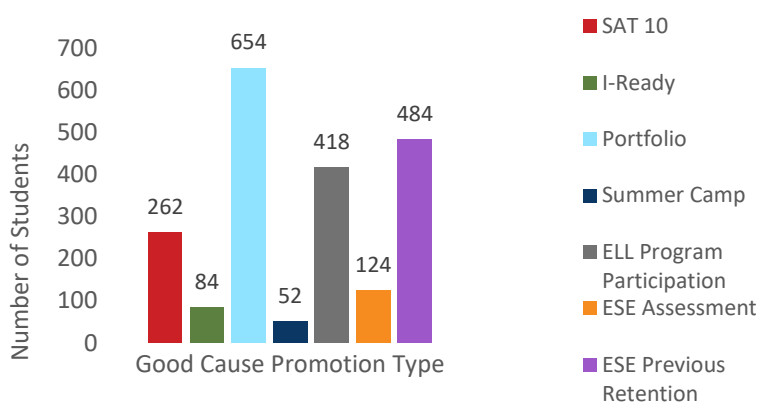
- District-wide promotion rates were stable at close to 98% across the three years of the study (98.1%, 97.7%, and 97.9% for 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18, respectively).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 97.8% except for first grade (95.4%), second grade (95.8%), and third grade (93.0%).
- This year’s third grade promotion rate (93.0%) was similar to that of 2015-16 and 2016-17 (93.3%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a slightly lower promotion rate (87.5%) compared to last year (88.4%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 91.3% to 97.2%.
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to FSA scores (79%), with an additional 14% promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (23.8%), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) previous retention (17.6%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (15.2%) and the SAT 10 alternative assessment (9.5%).
- Two percent of the 2,172 students who attended summer school were promoted after achieving proficiency scores on alternate assessments at the conclusion of summer school.

Third Grade Promotion by Type, 2017-18

Distribution of Third Grade Promotion and Retention



Good Cause Promotion by Type, 2017-18



Additional Resources

Detailed school-by-school results: <https://www.browardschools.com/domain/13537>
 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: November 26, 2018

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, 2015-16 through 2017-18**

The attached research brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools for the 2015-16 through 2017-18 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:

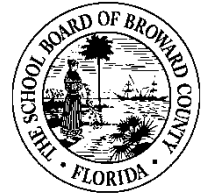
- District-wide promotion rates were stable across the three years (98.1%, 97.7%, and 97.9% for 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18, respectively).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 97.8% except for first grade (95.4%), second grade (95.8%), and third grade (93.0%).
- This year's third grade promotion rate (93.0%) was similar to that of 2016-17 (93.3%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a slightly lower promotion rate (87.5%) compared to last year (88.4%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 91.3% to 97.2%
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to FSA scores (79%), with an additional 14% being promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (23.8%), exceptional student education (ESE) previous retention (17.6%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (15.2%) and the SAT 10 alternative assessment (9.5%).
- Two percent of the 2,172 students who attended summer school were promoted due to achieving proficiency scores on alternate assessments at the conclusion of summer school.

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: <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13537>.

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

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

Research Brief



PROMOTION RATES IN BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 2015-16 THROUGH 2017-18

This brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 2015-16 through 2017-18 school years at both District-managed 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 standard promotion criteria and good cause promotion criteria for elementary school students. Beginning in third grade, students must achieve a level two or higher on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for English Language Arts (ELA) (in third grade) or both ELA and math (in grades four and five) to receive a standard promotion. Students can also take an alternative assessment to receive a good cause promotion. These alternative assessments are determined by the District except for third grade. Third-grade students who do not achieve a level two or higher on the FSA for ELA are eligible to take an alternative assessment to be promoted through good cause; however, this is the only grade in which the alternative assessment must be approved by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).

In addition to good cause promotion through successful completion of alternative assessments, criteria are in place for students with disabilities who are receiving Exceptional Student Education services (ESE), English language learners (ELL), students who have been previously retained, and students in extraordinary circumstances. See Appendix A for a detailed list of BCPS good cause criteria, beginning on page 76 of Policy 6000.1. An informational paper produced by the FLDOE is included in Appendix B that contains additional requirements for student progression from grade 3 to grade 4, as well as descriptions of services provided to retained students and students promoted through good cause criteria.

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 2017-18 school year is included in Appendix A.

At the middle school level (grades six through eight) promotion is indicated when students pass at least four courses, two of which must be in English, mathematics, science, or social studies.

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 three on both the FSA ELA and the Algebra I End-of-Course exam are a requirement for graduation, but not for promotion.

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 2017-18 school year to his or her grade level in the beginning of the 2018-19 school year. Data were retrieved on August 29, 2018. A student was defined as promoted if he or she moved up a grade level from 2017-18 to 2018-19.

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, English Language Learner (ELL) status, and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) status.

Third Grade Promotion by Type. Third grade promotion by type was determined by creating categories of promotion reasons attributed to students. Third grade students in 2017-18 who were promoted to fourth grade at the beginning of 2018-19 were considered to be promoted by the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) if they had an achievement level of 2 or higher on the 2018 FSA for ELA. Of the remaining students, those who had a SAT 10 score in the 45th percentile or an i-Ready score in the 50th percentile or higher prior to the conclusion of the 2017-18 school year were considered to be promoted by their respective assessment. 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 2018 SAT 10 score in the 45th percentile or an i-Ready score in the 50th 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 in the Data Warehouse: ELL program participation, ESE alternate assessment, and ESE previous retention. Students who did not meet any of these criteria were not included in the good cause promotion analysis.

RESULTS

PROMOTION FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS

Promotion Rate Overall and by Grade. Table 1 reflects that promotion rates remained stable across the three years (98.1%, 97.7%, and 97.9% for 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18). All grades

had a promotion rate of 97.8% or higher in 2017-18 except for first (95.4%), second (95.8%) and third (93.0%) grades. 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. Third grade promotion rates have remained relatively stable across the three years.

Table 1
District Promotion Rates by Grade, 2015-16 through 2017-18, including Centers and Charters.

Grade	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			Prom
	N	Promoted n	%	N	Promoted n	%	N	Promoted n	%	Diff (% pts.)
KG	18,000	17,722	98.5	17,999	17,704	98.4	17,974	17,655	98.2	-0.30
1	19,208	18,457	96.1	18,933	18,021	95.2	19,068	18,195	95.4	-0.70
2	20,018	19,417	97.0	19,488	18,641	95.7	19,232	18,416	95.8	-1.20
3	20,153	18,793	93.3	20,606	19,223	93.3	20,118	18,701	93.0	-0.30
4	20,085	19,803	98.6	19,715	19,287	97.8	20,180	19,746	97.8	-0.80
5	18,694	18,592	99.5	19,523	19,272	98.7	19,651	19,417	98.8	-0.70
6	18,664	18,508	99.2	19,548	19,414	99.3	20,181	20,036	99.3	0.10
7	18,554	18,404	99.2	19,030	18,835	99.0	19,751	19,603	99.3	0.10
8	18,218	18,005	98.8	18,482	18,208	98.5	18,902	18,677	98.8	0.00
9	19,019	18,917	99.5	19,090	18,962	99.3	19,087	18,997	99.5	0.00
10	18,985	18,812	99.1	19,335	19,105	98.8	19,170	19,070	99.5	0.40
11	18,270	18,099	99.1	18,898	18,653	98.7	19,109	18,946	99.1	0.00
Total	227,868	223,529	98.1	230,647	225,325	97.7	227,459	232,423	97.9	-0.20

Promotion by Student Sub-population. Table 2 presents District-wide promotion rates, disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and by special populations for the 2015-16 through 2017-18 school years. The promotion rate for ELL students decreased by 1.5 percentage points. Rates for all other sub-groups remained stable across the three years. See also Appendix C for school level summaries of promotion rates by student sub-group.

Table 2
District Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Special Populations, 2015-16 through 2017-18

	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
	N	Percent Promoted n	%	N	Percent Promoted n	%	N	Percent Promoted n	%
Gender									
Female	111,362	109,753	98.6	112,692	110,635	98.2	113,627	111,698	98.3
Male	116,506	113,776	97.7	117,955	114,690	97.2	118,796	115,761	97.4
Race/Ethnicity									
Black	88,072	85,698	97.3	88,376	85,568	96.8	89,036	86,422	97.1
Hispanic	74,141	72,861	98.3	77,995	76,285	97.8	80,654	79,069	98.0
White	50,337	49,821	99.0	48,688	48,073	98.7	46,909	46,348	98.8
Special Subgroups									
ELL	37,029	35,855	96.8	30,983	29,640	95.7	24,405	23,249	95.3
ESE	27,238	26,046	95.6	28,361	26,927	94.9	30,092	28,610	95.1
FRL	143,292	139,635	97.4	149,218	144,743	97.0	136,395	132,570	97.2

Promotion by Innovation Zone. Table 3 lists promotion rates by innovation zone for students in kindergarten through eleventh grade for the 2015-16 through 2017-18 school years. The rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates from the 2015-16 to 2017-18 school years. The table is sorted from highest to lowest promotion rate for the 2017-18 school year.

Table 3
Promotion by Innovation Zone, 2015-16 through 2017-18

Innovation Zone	School Year									3 Year Diff (% pts.)
	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%	
West Broward	5,424	5,385	99.3	5,839	5,789	99.1	5,546	5,510	99.4	0.1
Stoneman Douglas	9,292	9,241	99.5	9,816	9,745	99.3	9,903	9,835	99.3	-0.2
Nova	5,018	4,968	99.0	5,709	5,660	99.1	5,001	4,963	99.2	0.2
Cooper City	5,295	5,270	99.5	5,682	5,618	98.9	5,489	5,447	99.2	-0.3
Cypress Bay	13,230	13,132	99.3	13,194	13,092	99.2	13,468	13,354	99.2	-0.1
Western	6,710	6,630	98.8	7,279	7,199	98.9	7,027	6,939	98.7	-0.1
Taravella	8,616	8,520	98.9	8,966	8,838	98.6	8,928	8,796	98.5	-0.4
Everglades	6,823	6,751	98.9	6,770	6,664	98.4	6,758	6,658	98.5	-0.4
McArthur	5,836	5,715	97.9	6,091	5,974	98.1	5,868	5,780	98.5	0.6
Monarch	7,033	6,933	98.6	7,088	6,988	98.6	6,997	6,889	98.5	-0.1
South Plantation	5,319	5,231	98.3	5,636	5,539	98.3	5,584	5,486	98.2	-0.1
Flanagan	7,555	7,448	98.6	7,077	6,956	98.3	7,205	7,076	98.2	-0.4
Piper	7,868	7,698	97.8	7,854	7,701	98.1	7,999	7,855	98.2	0.4
Northeast	4,876	4,792	98.3	4,765	4,654	97.7	4,675	4,589	98.2	-0.1
Coconut Creek	8,091	7,944	98.2	8,221	7,985	97.1	8,078	7,913	98.0	-0.2
Fort Lauderdale	6,531	6,378	97.7	6,506	6,310	97.0	6,537	6,399	97.9	0.2
Coral Glades	5,253	5,178	98.6	5,675	5,592	98.5	5,460	5,339	97.8	-0.8
Plantation	5,178	5,071	97.9	5,259	5,142	97.8	5,190	5,070	97.7	-0.2
Coral Springs	6,326	6,208	98.1	6,567	6,435	98.0	6,306	6,158	97.7	-0.4
Hollywood Hills	6,769	6,646	98.2	6,677	6,524	97.7	6,841	6,676	97.6	-0.6
South Broward	5,376	5,222	97.1	5,355	5,217	97.4	5,375	5,240	97.5	0.4
Stranahan	4,780	4,643	97.1	4,723	4,554	96.4	4,854	4,730	97.4	0.3
Blanche Ely	8,639	8,428	97.6	8,863	8,598	97.0	8,690	8,466	97.4	-0.2
Dillard	7,167	6,952	97.0	7,182	6,996	97.4	7,361	7,151	97.1	0.1
Boyd Anderson	7,856	7,653	97.4	7,369	7,100	96.3	7,841	7,607	97.0	-0.4
Miramar	6,477	6,356	98.1	6,234	6,033	96.8	6,276	6,088	97.0	-1.1
Deerfield Beach	6,421	6,239	97.2	6,396	6,170	96.5	6,310	6,104	96.7	-0.5
Hallandale	5,128	4,989	97.3	4,837	4,620	95.5	4,950	4,731	95.6	-1.7

THIRD GRADE PROMOTION

Third Grade Promotion by Type. The majority of 2017-18 third grade students (79%; $n=15,955$) were promoted to fourth grade by scoring an achievement level of 2 or higher on the FSA for ELA. An additional 2,746 students were promoted by good cause (14%), while the remaining 7% ($n=1,417$) were retained (Figures 1 and 2).

Distribution of Third Grade Promotion and Retention

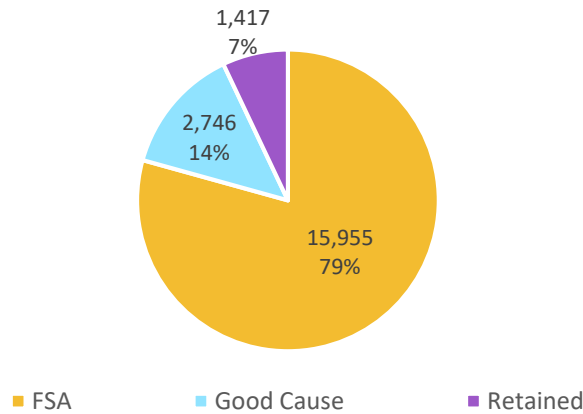


Figure 1. Distribution of 2017-18 third grade promotion and retention by type.

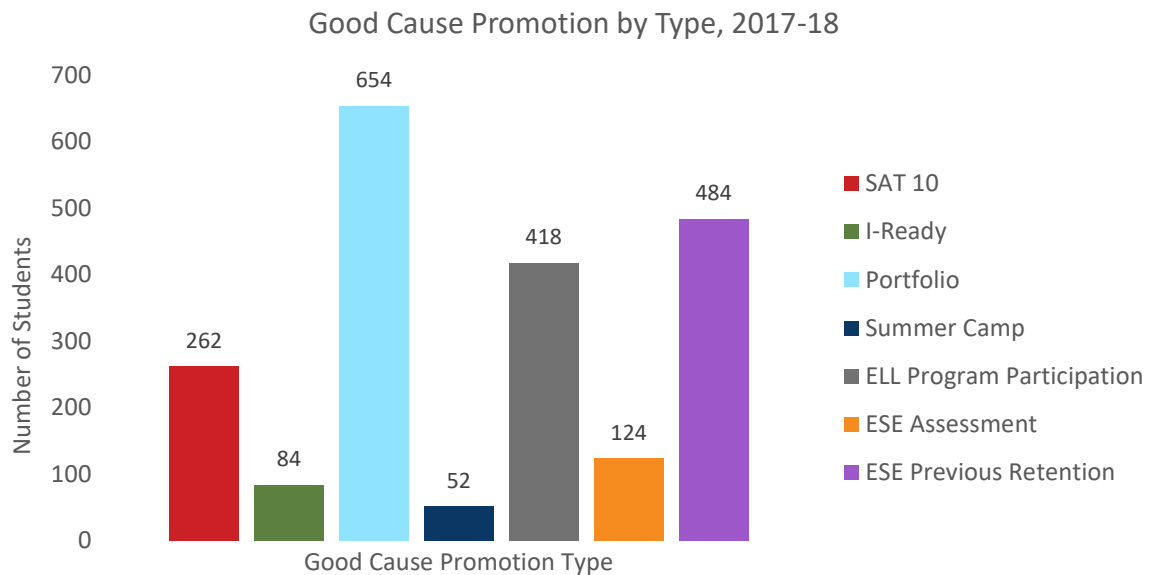


Figure 2. Distribution of 2017-18 good cause promotion by specific type.²

² Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be determined for 398 students. There were 84 students who were listed as having a good cause promotion status of “alternative assessment;” however, the data could not be verified. Also, 186 students received one of the following good cause promotion codes not applicable to 3rd grade students: ESE retention deferral, ELL committee recommendation, or Intervention through the RTI process.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROMOTION

Third Grade Summer School Promotion by Type

Students who do not achieve a level 2 or higher on the FSA for ELA are eligible to attend summer school. In 2018, 4,141 third grade students did not meet FSA criteria. A total of 2,172 students attended summer school; many of whom had already met good cause promotion criteria, and 49 whom had already achieved a satisfactory score on the FSA ELA.

Summer school participation was responsible for promoting 49 students (2% of students who attended). At the conclusion of summer school, these students achieved passing scores on either the i-Ready or SAT 10 assessment. Most students attending summer school were either retained or promoted through good cause. The complete distribution of promotion by type for summer school attendees is shown in Figure 3.

Summer School Promotion by Type

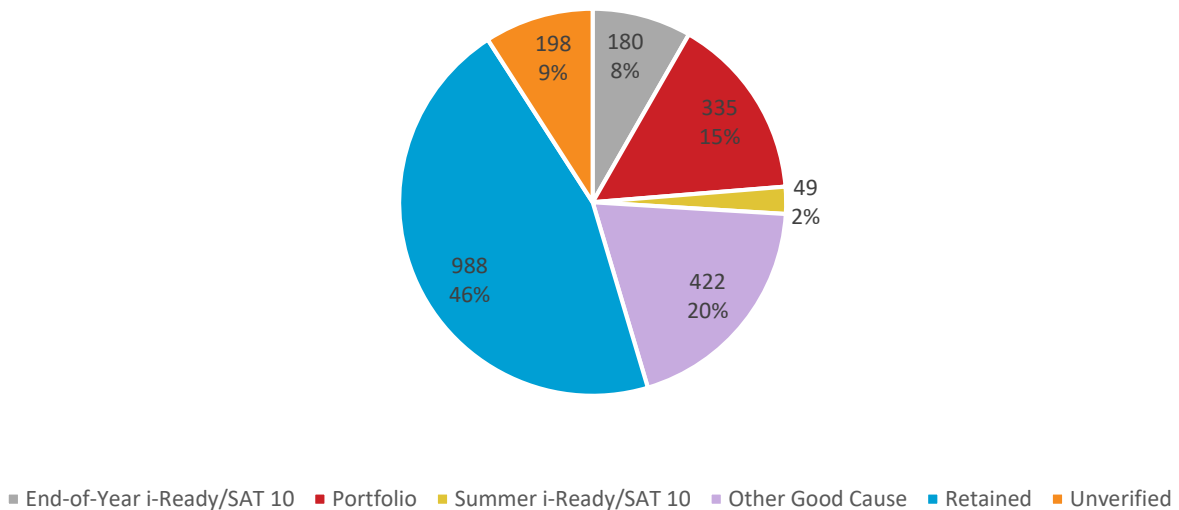


Figure 3. Distribution of 2017-2018 third grade summer school retention and promotion by type.³

³ Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be verified for 198 students who attended summer school. "Other Good Cause" criteria include ESE program participation (234), ESE assessment (8), and ESE previous retention (180).

Third Grade Promotion by Race/Ethnicity by Gender. Figure 4 illustrates promotion rates of Black, Hispanic, and White third grade BCPS students by gender for the 2017-18 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 promotion rates than Black female students (97.2%, 95.4%, and 91.3%, respectively). See also Appendix C for school-level promotion rates by gender and race/ethnicity and Appendix D for school-level promotion rates by race/ethnicity within gender.

The gender gap was greatest among Black students. That is, for the Black student subgroup there was a 3.8 percentage point gap between female and male students. Hispanic students had a 2.4 percentage point gap, and White students had a 0.8 percentage point gap. In each case, females exhibited the higher promotion rate. Overall, the highest promotion rates were for White females (97.2%), followed closely by White males (96.4%).

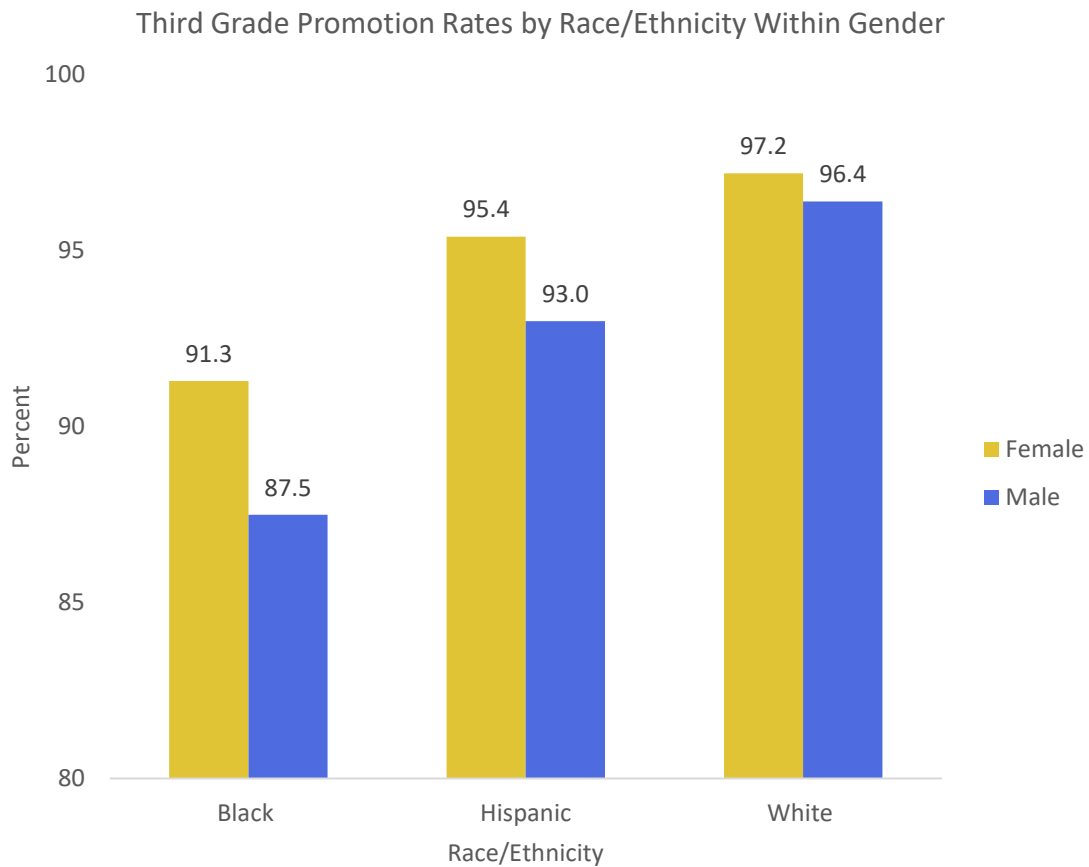


Figure 4. Third-grade promotion rates by race/ethnicity within gender, 2017-18.

Figures 5a and 5b present District-wide third-grade promotion rate gaps by gender for the Black, Hispanic, and White student subgroups for 2015-16 through 2017-18. For both genders, the gap between Hispanic and White students decreased. The gap between Black and White females remained the same, while the gap between Hispanic and White females decreased by one percentage point. The gap between Black and White males decreased by two percentage points, while the Hispanic and White male students gap decreased by one percentage point.

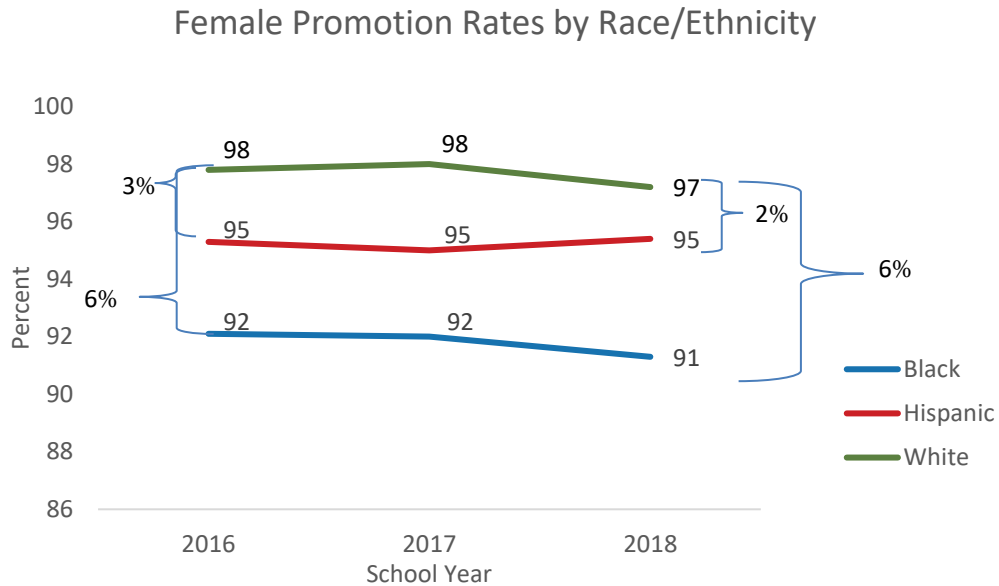


Figure 5a. Third-grade female promotion rate gaps, 2016-2018⁴.

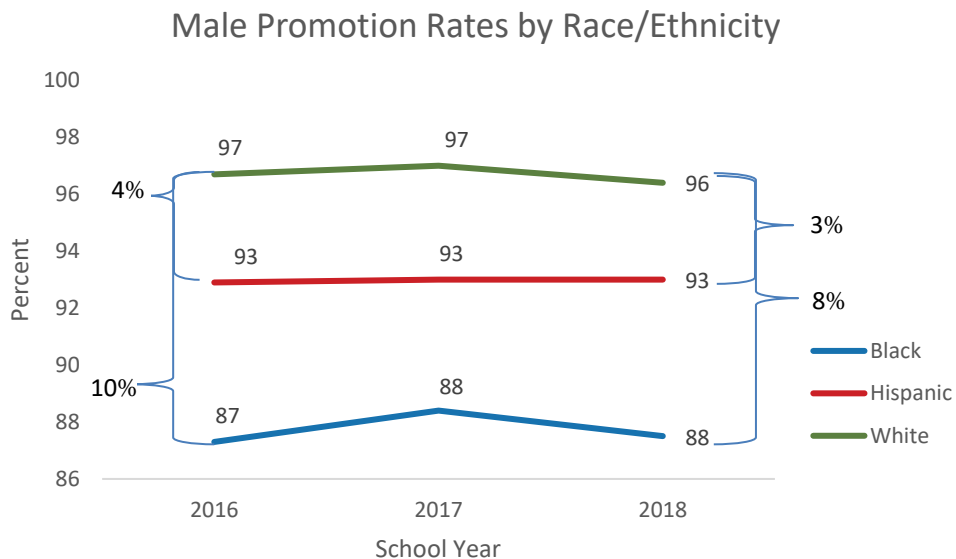


Figure 5b. Third-grade male promotion rate gaps, 2016-2018⁵.

⁴ Numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number; however, the bars reflect the full, unrounded number and thus may go up or down despite the number not changing.

⁵ Same as above.

Discussion

Promotion rates were examined for Kindergarten through eleventh grade students enrolled in District-managed schools, centers, and charter schools for the 2015-16 through 2017-18 school years. Overall, promotion rates for all grade levels remained stable across the three years with the exception of second grade which decreased by 1.2 percentage points. Third grade promotion rates have been relatively stable across the three-year period.

The majority (79%) of third grade students were promoted to fourth grade by scoring a level two or higher on the FSA for ELA. An additional 14% of students were promoted by good cause, while seven percent were retained in third grade in the following school year. Summer school attendance accounted for the promotion of 2% of the 2,172 students who attended this past year. The majority of students who attended summer school were either retained or promoted through good cause.

For third grade students within each racial/ethnic group, females had a higher promotion rate, and within each gender, White students had the highest promotion rate, followed by Hispanic students, followed by Black students.

Promotion rates for ELL students decreased slightly by 1.5 percentage points across the three years. Promotion rates for all other student sub-populations remained stable during this time period.

Five innovation zones had overall promotion rates at 99% or greater (West Broward, Stoneman Douglas, Nova, Cooper City, and Cypress Bay). Twenty schools experienced a decrease in promotion rate, with Hallandale having the largest decrease (1.7 percentage points).

Further information regarding student performance at specific schools is included in Appendices C and D (<https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13537>). 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. Given that 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 2017-18 school year.

Appendix B presents details regarding third grade promotion criteria outlined by the Florida Department of Education.

Appendix C presents school-level summaries of promotion rates for the 2017-18 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 D 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. (2017, August 08). Policy 6000.1: Student Progression Plan. Retrieved October 26, 2018, from <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000.1.pdf>

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