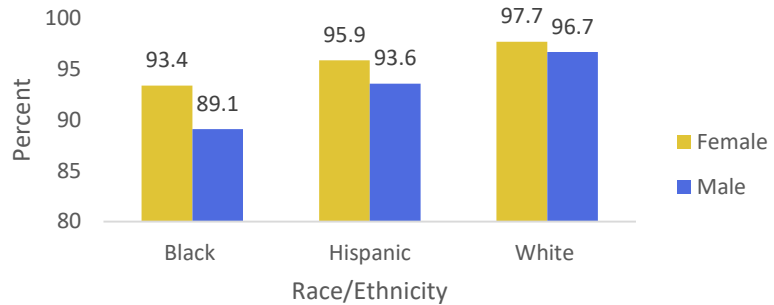


2018-19 Promotion Rate
Overall
98.1%
Third grade
93.9%

Third Grade Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity Within Gender

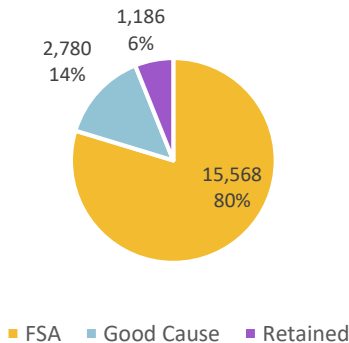


Promotion At A Glance

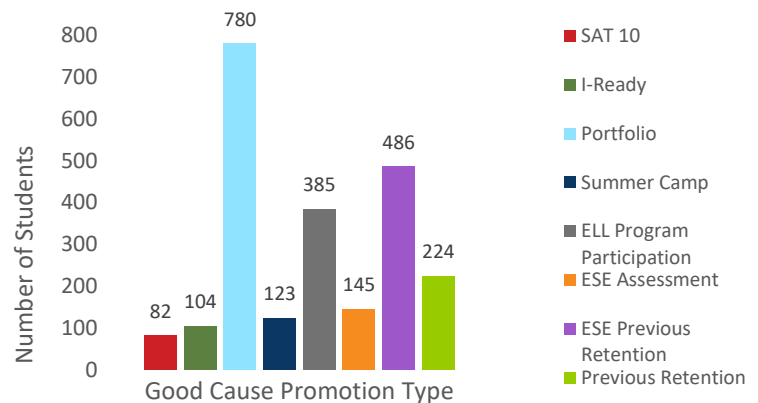
- District-wide promotion rates were stable at around 98% across the three years of the study (97.7%, 97.9%, and 98.1% for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, respectively).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 98.1% except for first grade (95.3%), second grade (96.1%), and third grade (93.9%).
- This year’s third grade promotion rate (93.9%) was similar to that of 2016-17 (93.3%) and 2017-18 (93.0%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a higher promotion rate (89.1%) compared to last year (87.5%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 93.4% to 97.7%.
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to FSA scores (80%), with an additional 14% promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (28.1%), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) previous retention (17.5%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (13.9%) and the SAT 10 alternative assessment (8.1%).
- Six 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, 2018-19

Distribution of 3rd Grade Promotion and Retention



Good Cause Promotion by Type, 2018-19



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_1Student_Progression_Plan_2019-2020.pdf.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DANIEL GOHL
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

Signatures on File

DATE: October 31, 2019

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, 2016-17 through 2018-19**

The attached research brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools for the 2016-17 through 2018-19 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:

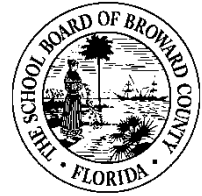
- District-wide promotion rates were stable across the three years (97.7%, 97.9%, and 98.1% for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, respectively).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 98.1% except for first grade (95.3%), second grade (96.1%), and third grade (93.9%).
- This year's third grade promotion rate (93.9%) was similar to that of 2017-18 (93.0%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a higher promotion rate (89.1%) compared to last year (87.5%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 93.4% to 97.7%.
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to FSA scores (80%), with an additional 14% being promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria. Of those, the most common reasons were the Portfolio assessment (28.1%), Exceptional Student Education (ESE) previous retention (17.5%), English Language Learner (ELL) program participation (13.9%) and previous retention (8.1%).
- Six 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/RAA/MP/AI/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, 2016-17 THROUGH 2018-19

This brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 2016-17 through 2018-19 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), students classified as English Language Learners (ELL) 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 82 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-Student_Progression_Plan_2019-2020.pdf. Note that the policy is frequently amended. A copy of the policy 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 2018-19 school year to his or her grade level in the beginning of the 2019-20 school year. Data were retrieved on August 28, 2019. A student was defined as promoted if he or she moved up a grade level from 2018-19 to 2019-20.

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 2018-19 who were promoted to fourth grade at the beginning of 2019-20 were considered to be promoted by the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) if they had an achievement level of 2 or higher on the 2019 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 2018-19 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 2019 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 in the Data Warehouse: ELL program participation, ESE alternate assessment, ESE previous retention, and 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 increased across the three years (97.7%, 97.9%, and 98.1% for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19). All grades had a promotion rate of 98.1% or higher in 2018-19 except for first (95.3%), second (96.1%) and third

(93.9%) 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, 2016-17 through 2018-19, including Centers and Charters.

Grade	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			Prom Diff (% pts.)
	N	Promoted n	%	N	Promoted n	%	N	Promoted n	%	
KG	17,999	17,704	98.4	17,974	17,655	98.2	17,684	17,395	98.4	0.00
1	18,933	18,021	95.2	19,068	18,195	95.4	18,616	17,734	95.3	0.10
2	19,488	18,641	95.7	19,232	18,416	95.8	19,221	18,464	96.1	0.40
3	20,606	19,223	93.3	20,118	18,701	93.0	19,534	18,348	93.9	0.60
4	19,715	19,287	97.8	20,180	19,746	97.8	19,548	19,183	98.1	0.30
5	19,523	19,272	98.7	19,651	19,417	98.8	19,506	19,278	98.8	0.10
6	19,548	19,414	99.3	20,181	20,036	99.3	19,854	19,743	99.4	0.10
7	19,030	18,835	99.0	19,751	19,603	99.3	20,158	19,996	99.2	0.20
8	18,482	18,208	98.5	18,902	18,677	98.8	19,319	19,102	98.9	0.40
9	19,090	18,962	99.3	19,087	18,997	99.5	19,309	19,253	99.7	0.40
10	19,335	19,105	98.8	19,170	19,070	99.5	18,861	18,789	99.6	0.80
11	18,898	18,653	98.7	19,109	18,946	99.1	18,786	18,711	99.6	0.90
Total	230,647	225,325	97.7	227,459	232,423	97.9	230,396	225,996	98.1	0.40

Promotion by Student Sub-population. Table 2 presents District-wide promotion rates, disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and by special populations for the 2016-17 through 2018-19 school years. Rates for all 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, 2016-17 through 2018-19

	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	Percent Promoted			Percent Promoted			Percent Promoted		
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%
Gender									
Female	112,692	110,635	98.2	113,627	111,698	98.3	112,531	110,837	98.5
Male	117,955	114,690	97.2	118,796	115,761	97.4	117,865	115,159	97.7
Race/Ethnicity									
Black	88,376	85,568	96.8	89,036	86,422	97.1	88,052	85,874	97.5
Hispanic	77,995	76,285	97.8	80,654	79,069	98.0	81,786	80,235	98.1
White	48,688	48,073	98.7	46,909	46,348	98.8	44,844	44,350	98.9
Special Subgroups									
ELL	30,983	29,640	95.7	24,405	23,249	95.3	24,724	23,585	95.4
ESE	28,361	26,927	94.9	30,092	28,610	95.1	31,020	29,679	95.7
FRL	149,218	144,743	97.4	136,395	132,570	97.2	155,639	151,934	97.6

Promotion by Innovation Zone. Table 3 lists promotion rates by innovation zone for students in kindergarten through eleventh grade for the 2016-17 through 2018-19 school years. The

rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates from the 2016-17 to 2018-19 school years. The table is sorted from highest to lowest promotion rate for the 2018-19 school year.

Table 3
Promotion by Innovation Zone, 2016-17 through 2018-19

Innovation Zone	School Year									3 Year Diff (% pts.)
	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19			
	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	
Stoneman Douglas	9,816	9,745	99.3	9,903	9,835	99.3	9,917	9,851	99.3	0.0
Cooper City	5,682	5,618	98.9	5,489	5,447	99.2	5,629	5,589	99.3	0.4
Cypress Bay	13,194	13,092	99.2	13,468	13,354	99.2	13,560	13,451	99.2	0.0
Northeast	4,765	4,654	97.7	4,675	4,589	98.2	4,513	4,466	99.0	1.3
Nova	5,709	5,660	99.1	5,001	4,963	99.2	5,019	4,971	99.0	-0.1
West Broward	5,839	5,789	99.1	5,546	5,510	99.4	5,346	5,294	99.0	-0.1
Taravella	8,966	8,838	98.6	8,928	8,796	98.5	8,772	8,665	98.8	0.2
Western	7,279	7,199	98.9	7,027	6,939	98.7	7,011	6,927	98.8	-0.1
Monarch	7,088	6,988	98.6	6,997	6,889	98.5	6,906	6,819	98.7	0.1
Flanagan	7,077	6,956	98.3	7,205	7,076	98.2	7,011	6,922	98.7	0.4
Dillard	7,182	6,996	97.4	7,361	7,151	97.1	7,243	7,131	98.5	1.1
Everglades	6,770	6,664	98.4	6,758	6,658	98.5	6,471	6,377	98.5	0.1
McArthur	6,091	5,974	98.1	5,868	5,780	98.5	5,787	5,696	98.4	0.3
Coral Glades	5,675	5,592	98.5	5,460	5,339	97.8	5,392	5,301	98.3	-0.2
Coral Springs	6,567	6,435	98.0	6,306	6,158	97.7	6,196	6,067	98.3	0.3
South Plantation	5,636	5,539	98.3	5,584	5,486	98.2	5,417	5,326	98.3	0.0
Piper	7,854	7,701	98.1	7,999	7,855	98.2	7,906	7,766	98.2	0.1
Blanche Ely	8,863	8,598	97.0	8,690	8,466	97.4	8,671	8,487	97.9	0.9
Plantation	5,259	5,142	97.8	5,190	5,070	97.7	4,983	4,875	97.8	0.0
Fort Lauderdale	6,506	6,310	97.0	6,537	6,399	97.9	6,733	6,577	97.7	0.7
Hollywood Hills	6,677	6,524	97.7	6,841	6,676	97.6	6,774	6,620	97.7	0.0
Coconut Creek	8,221	7,985	97.1	8,078	7,913	98.0	8,064	7,871	97.6	0.5
South Broward	5,355	5,217	97.4	5,375	5,240	97.5	5,209	5,084	97.6	0.2
Stranahan	4,723	4,554	96.4	4,854	4,730	97.4	4,833	4,705	97.4	1.0
Boyd Anderson	7,369	7,100	96.3	7,841	7,607	97.0	7,650	7,438	97.2	0.9
Miramar	6,234	6,033	96.8	6,276	6,088	97.0	6,727	6,542	97.2	0.4
Deerfield Beach	6,396	6,170	96.5	6,310	6,104	96.7	6,351	6,160	97.0	0.5
Hallandale	4,837	4,620	95.5	4,950	4,731	95.6	4,861	4,667	96.0	0.5

THIRD GRADE PROMOTION

Third Grade Promotion by Type. The majority of 2018-19 third grade students (80%; $n=15,568$) were promoted to fourth grade by scoring an achievement level of 2 or higher on the FSA for ELA. An additional 2,780 students were promoted by good cause (14%), while the remaining 6% ($n=1,186$) were retained (Figures 1 and 2).

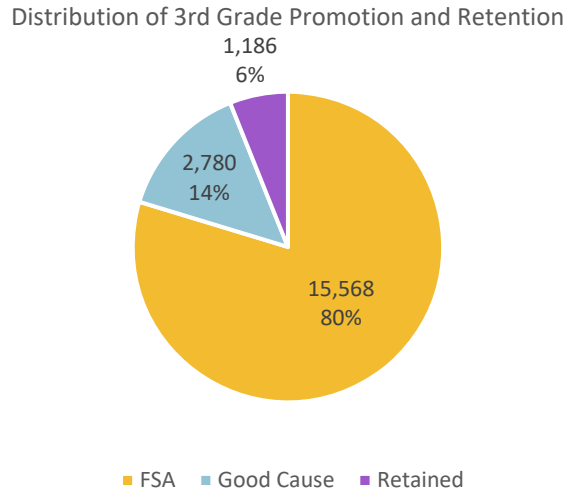


Figure 1. Distribution of 2018-19 third grade promotion and retention by type.

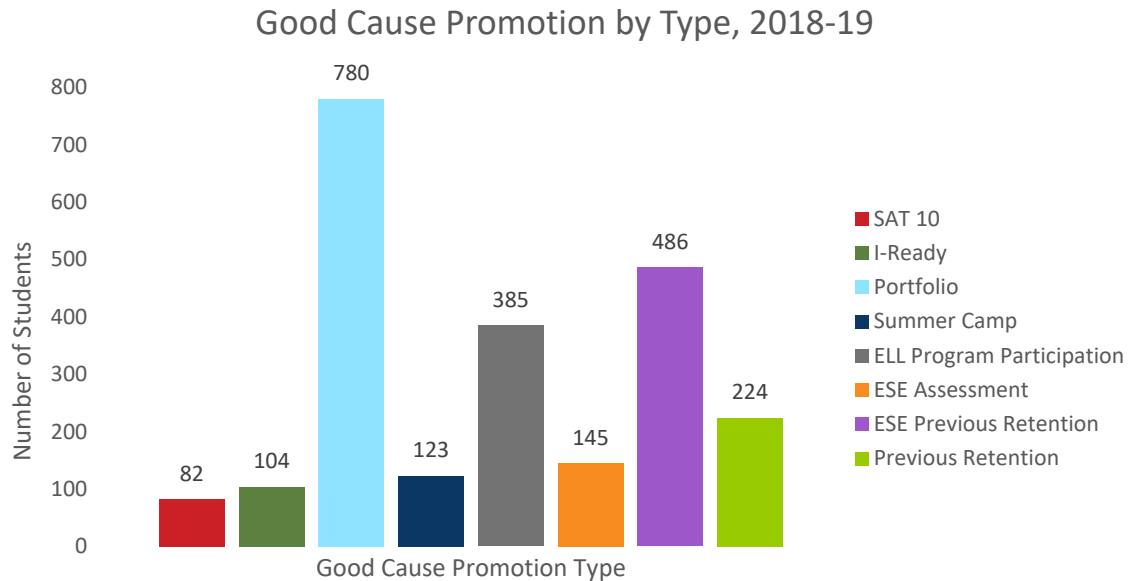


Figure 2. Distribution of 2018-19 good cause promotion by specific type.²

² Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be determined for 360 students. There were 49 students with a promotion status code of “alternative assessment”, 2 students with a code of “iReady Diagnostic 3”, and 18 students with a code of “Summer Alternative Assessment”. However, the data for these students could not be verified. Also, 22 students received one of the following good cause promotion codes not applicable to 3rd grade students: ESE retention deferral, ELL committee recommendation, or Alternative Kindergarten Assessment.

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 2019, 3,933 third grade students did not meet FSA criteria. A total of 2,171 students attended summer school; including some students that had met good cause promotion criteria, and 95 whom had already achieved a satisfactory score on the FSA ELA.

Summer school participation was responsible for promoting 123 students (6% of students who attended). At the conclusion of summer school, these students achieved passing scores on the 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.

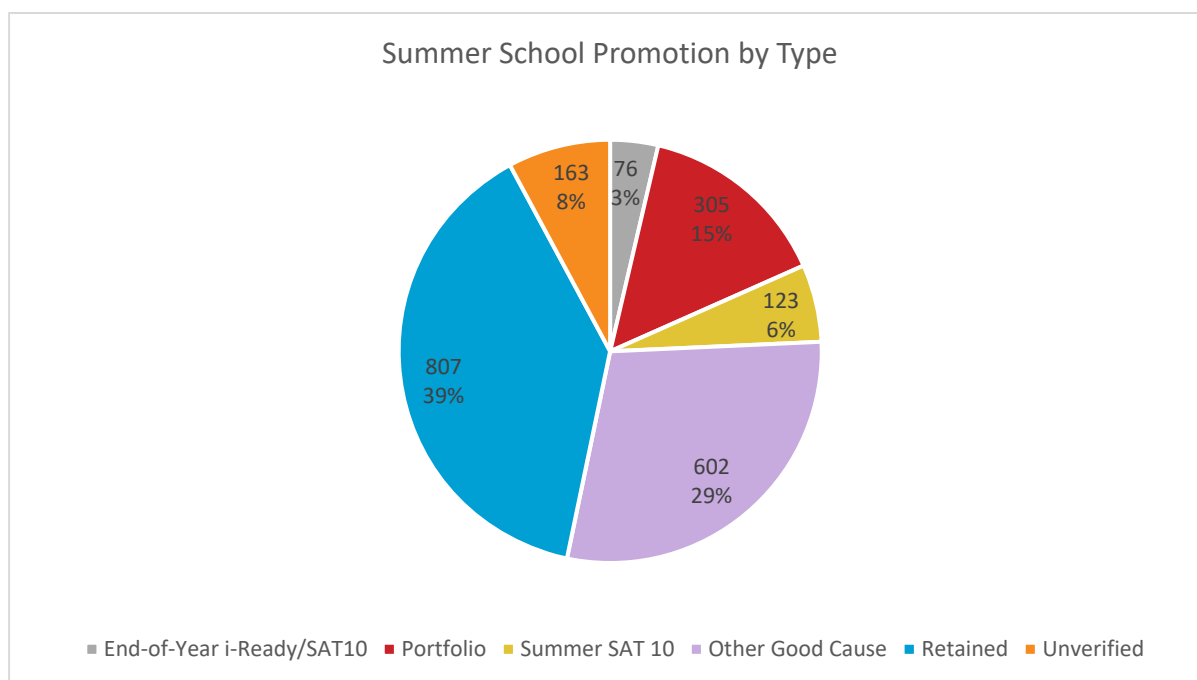


Figure 3. Distribution of 2018-2019 third grade summer school retention and promotion by type.³

³ Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be verified for 163 students who attended summer school. "Other Good Cause" criteria include ESE program participation (201), ESE alternative assessment (78), alternative assessment (19), ESE previous retention (223), and previous retention (82).

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 2018-19 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 (97.7%, 95.9%, and 93.4%, 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 4.3 percentage point gap between female and male students. Hispanic students had a 2.3 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 (97.7%), followed closely by White males (96.7%).

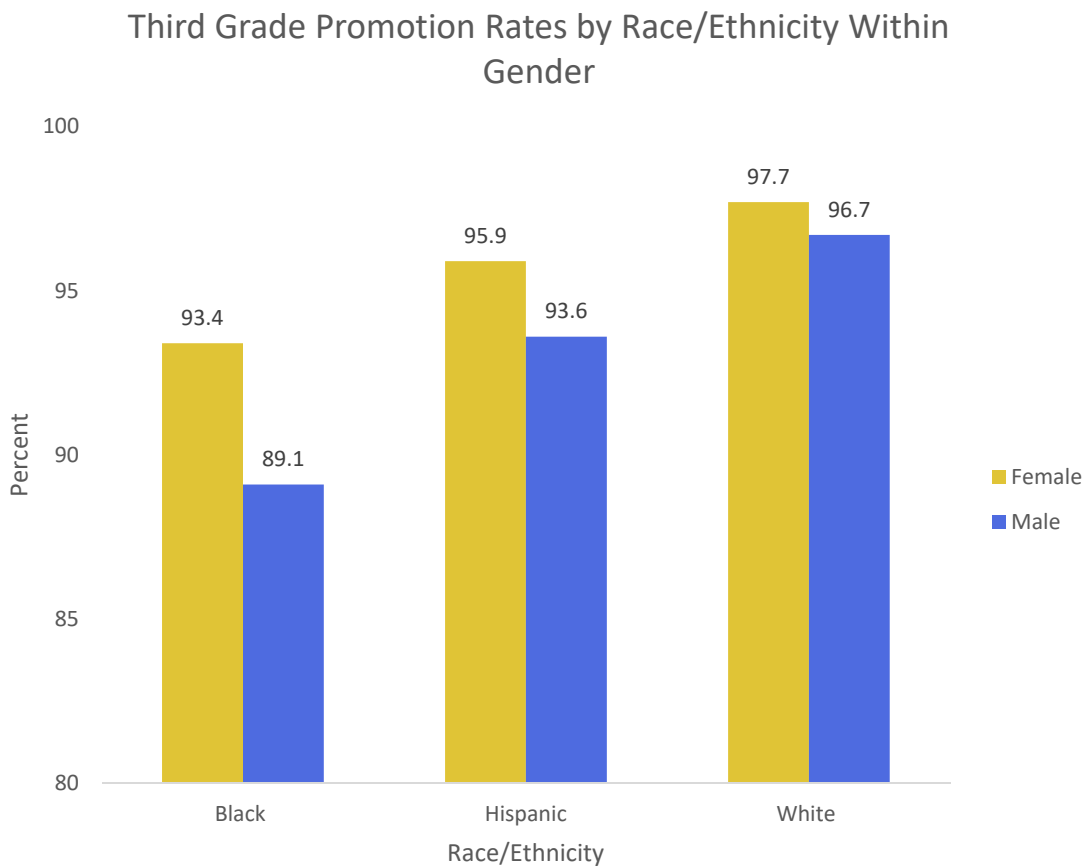


Figure 4. Third-grade promotion rates by race/ethnicity within gender, 2018-19.

Figures 5a and 5b present District-wide third-grade promotion rate gaps by gender for the Black, Hispanic, and White student subgroups for 2016-17 through 2018-19. For both genders, the gap between Hispanic and White students decreased. The gap between Black and White females and between Hispanic and White females decreased by one percentage point. Similarly, the gap between Black and White males and the gap between Hispanic and White males both decreased by one percentage point.

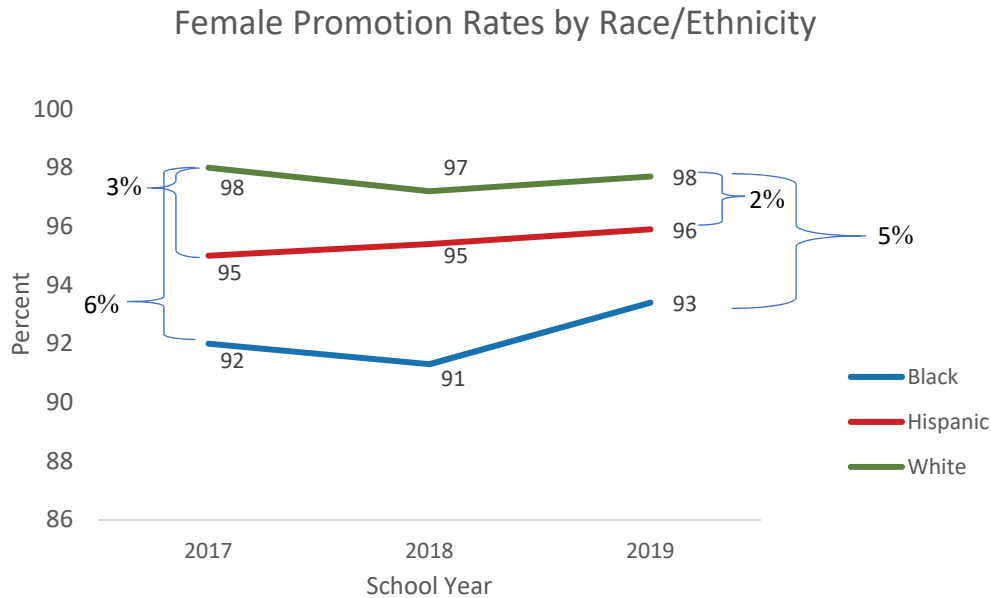


Figure 5a. Third-grade female promotion rate gaps, 2017-2019⁴.

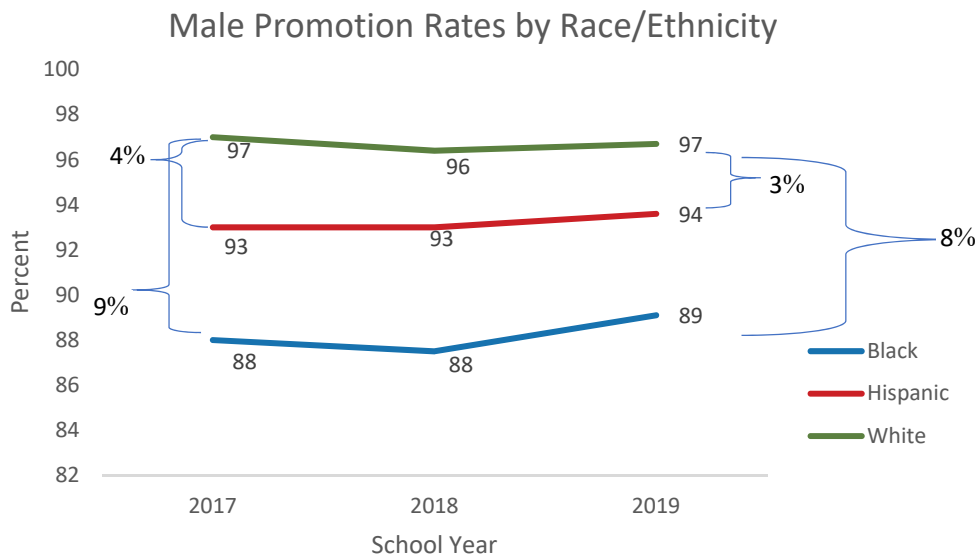


Figure 5b. Third-grade male promotion rate gaps, 2017-2019⁵.

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 2016-17 through 2018-19 school years. Overall, promotion rates for all grade levels remained stable across the three years. Third grade promotion rates have also been stable across the three-year period.

The majority (80%) 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 six percent were retained in third grade in the following school year. Summer school attendance accounted for the promotion of 6% 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 all student sub-populations remained stable between 2016-17 and 2018-19.

Six innovation zones had overall promotion rates at 99% or greater (Stoneman Douglas, Cooper City, Cypress Bay, Northeast, Nova, and West Broward). Four schools experienced a decrease in promotion rate, with Coral Glades having the largest decrease (0.2 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 2018-19 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 2018-19 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. (2019, July 23). Policy 6000.1: Student Progression Plan. Retrieved on September 11, 2019 from http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student_Progression_Plan_2019-2020.pdf

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