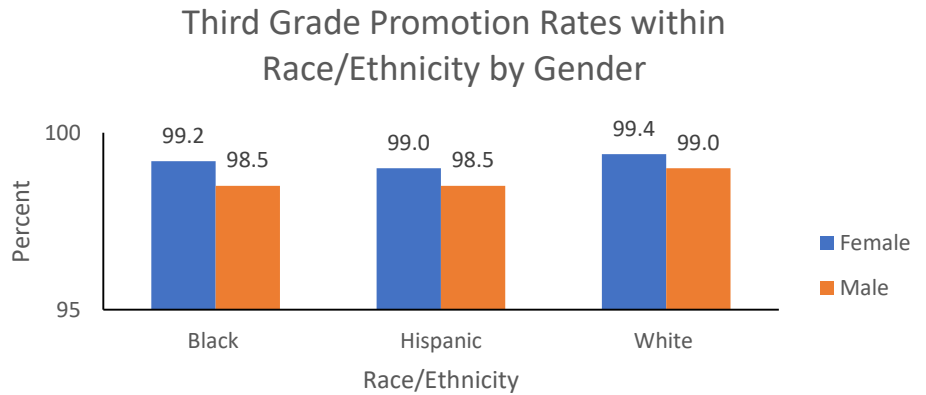


2019-20 Promotion Rate
Overall

99.2%

Third grade

98.8%

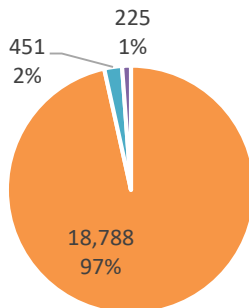


Promotion At A Glance

- District-wide promotion rates were stable across the 2017-18 and 2018-19 years (97.9%, 98.1%) respectively, but displayed a 1.1 percentage point increase for 2019-20 school year (99.2%).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above 98.6% except for first grade (97.6%).
- This year’s third grade promotion rate (98.8%) was higher than that of 2018-19 (93.9%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a higher promotion rate (98.5%) compared to last year (89.1%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from 98.5% to 99.4%.
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to using local District alternative evidence (97%), with an additional 2% who were promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria.

Third Grade Promotion by Type, 2019-20

Distribution of 3rd Grade Promotion and Retention



■ District Criteria ■ Good Cause Promotion ■ Retained

Breakdown of 2019-20 good cause promotion by specific type.

- Alternative Assessment: 54 students
- ELL Program Participation: 12 students
- Traditional/ESE Previous Retention: 10 students

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.



**DANIEL GOHL, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
OFFICE OF ACADEMICS**

Signatures on File

DATE: December 9, 2020

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, 2017-18 through 2019-20**

The attached research brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools, Centers, and Charters Schools for the 2017-18 through 2019-20 school years. Rates are provided by demographic group, grade level, and innovation zones. Third grade promotion is also broken out by reason for promotion. Individual school data are provided in the appendices. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Florida Department of Education suspended statewide testing in 2019-20. The District utilized alternative evidence in the decisions related to promoting or retaining third grade and summer school students. As a result, there was a variance with third grade students' promotion rates. That is, the 2019-20 rates were higher when compared to previous school years.

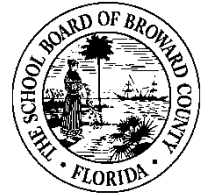
Major findings include:

- District-wide promotion rates were stable across the 2017-18 and 2018-19 years (97.9%, 98.1%) respectively, but displayed a 1.1 percentage point increase for 2019-20 school year (99.2%).
- Promotion rates for all grades were at or above (98.6%) except for first grade (97.6%).
- This year's third grade promotion rate (98.8%) was higher than that of 2018-19 (93.9%).
- Third-grade Black male students had a higher promotion rate (98.5%) compared to last year (89.1%). Rates for all other racial/gender groups ranged from (98.5% to 99.4%).
- Most third-grade students were promoted due to using local District alternative evidence (97%), with an additional 2% who were promoted due to meeting Good Cause criteria.

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/MJJ/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, 2017-18 THROUGH 2019-20

This brief summarizes promotion rates in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) for the 2017-18 through 2019-20 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 achievement on standardized tests, which is the FSA reading test. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Florida Department of Education suspended statewide testing which affected the District's ability to administer the spring and summer test dates. Thus, in 2019-20, the District utilized alternative evidence in the decisions related to promoting or retaining third grade and summer school students. As a result, there was a variance with third grade students' promotion rates. That is, the 2019-20 rates were higher when compared to previous school years.

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 (FDOE).

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

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.

good cause criteria 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. 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 2019-20 school year to his or her grade level in the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Data were retrieved on September 8, 2020. A student was defined as promoted if he or she moved up a grade level from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

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

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 2019-20 who were promoted to fourth grade at the beginning of 2020-21 were considered to be promoted by the use of District alternative evidence. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Third Grade Summer Reading Academy was not used to promote students during the Summer of 2020. 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 (97.9%, 98.1%, and 99.2% for 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20). All grades had a promotion rate of 98.6% or higher in 2019-20 except for first grade (97.6%). However, the third-grade promotion rate which 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 also displayed a higher than expected promotion rate.

Table 1

District Promotion Rates by Grade, 2017-18 through 2019-20, including Centers and Charters.

Grade	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20			Prom
	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	<i>N</i>	<i>n</i>	%	Diff (% pts.)
KG	17,974	17,655	98.2	17,684	17,395	98.4	17,537	17,336	98.9	0.65
1	19,068	18,195	95.4	18,616	17,734	95.3	18,376	17,931	97.6	2.18
2	19,232	18,416	95.8	19,221	18,464	96.1	18,691	18,425	98.6	2.78
3	20,118	18,701	93.0	19,534	18,348	93.9	19,464	19,239	98.8	5.84
4	20,180	19,746	97.8	19,548	19,183	98.1	19,205	19,106	99.5	1.68
5	19,651	19,417	98.8	19,506	19,278	98.8	19,458	19,397	99.7	0.89
6	20,181	20,036	99.3	19,854	19,743	99.4	20,004	19,934	99.7	0.35
7	19,751	19,603	99.3	20,158	19,996	99.2	20,132	20,046	99.6	0.27
8	18,902	18,677	98.8	19,319	19,102	98.9	20,042	19,841	99.0	0.20
9	19,087	18,997	99.5	19,309	19,253	99.7	19,950	19,898	99.7	0.24
10	19,170	19,070	99.5	18,861	18,789	99.6	19,541	19,461	99.6	0.09
11	19,109	18,946	99.1	18,786	18,711	99.6	18,712	18,614	99.5	0.38
Total	227,459	232,423	97.9	230,396	225,996	98.1	231,112	229,228	99.2	1.28

Promotion by Student Sub-population. Table 2 presents District-wide promotion rates, disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and by special populations for the 2017-18 through 2019-20 school years. All promotion rates for all sub-populations displayed higher than expected rates between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Table 2

District Promotion Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Special Populations, 2017-18 through 2019-20

Year	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	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	113,627	111,698	98.3	112,531	110,837	98.5	112,860	112,148	99.4
Male	118,796	115,761	97.4	117,865	115,159	97.7	118,252	117,080	99.0
Race/Ethnicity									
Black	89,036	86,422	97.1	88,052	85,874	97.5	88,580	87,819	99.1
Hispanic	80,654	79,069	98.0	81,786	80,235	98.1	83,847	83,116	99.1
White	46,909	46,348	98.8	44,844	44,350	98.9	42,986	42,691	99.3
Special Subgroups									
ELL	24,405	23,249	95.3	24,724	23,585	95.4	27,841	27,374	98.3
ESE	30,092	28,610	95.1	31,020	29,679	95.7	31,952	31,330	98.1
FRL	136,395	132,570	97.2	155,639	151,934	97.6	146,487	145,047	99.0

Promotion by Innovation Zone. Table 3 lists promotion rates by innovation zone for students in kindergarten through eleventh grade for the 2017-18 through 2019-20 school years. The

rightmost column shows the difference in promotion rates from the 2017-18 to 2019-20 school years. The table is sorted from highest to lowest promotion rate for the 2019-20 school year.

Table 3
Promotion by Innovation Zone, 2017-18 through 2019-20

Innovation Zone	School Year									3 Year Diff (% pts.)
	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20			
	N	n	%	N	n	%	N	n	%	
Monarch	6,997	6,889	98.5	6,906	6,819	98.7	6,722	6,696	99.6	1.1
Nova	5,001	4,963	99.2	5,019	4,971	99.0	5,033	5,013	99.6	0.4
Stoneman Douglas	9,903	9,835	99.3	9,917	9,851	99.3	10,085	10,044	99.6	0.3
Coconut Creek	8,078	7,913	98.0	8,064	7,871	97.6	8,313	8,274	99.5	1.5
McArthur	5,868	5,780	98.5	5,787	5,696	98.4	5,935	5,906	99.5	1.0
Cooper City	5,489	5,447	99.2	5,629	5,589	99.3	5,684	5,651	99.4	0.2
Northeast	4,675	4,589	98.2	4,513	4,466	99.0	4,616	4,586	99.4	1.2
South Plantation	5,584	5,486	98.2	5,417	5,326	98.3	5,528	5,494	99.4	1.2
Taravella	8,928	8,796	98.5	8,772	8,665	98.8	8,248	8,202	99.4	0.9
West Broward	5,546	5,510	99.4	5,346	5,294	99.0	5,361	5,330	99.4	0.0
Western	7,027	6,939	98.7	7,011	6,927	98.8	7,131	7,091	99.4	0.7
Boyd Anderson	7,841	7,607	97.0	7,650	7,438	97.2	7,497	7,442	99.3	2.3
Coral Glades	5,460	5,339	97.8	5,392	5,301	98.3	5,541	5,504	99.3	1.5
Everglades	6,758	6,658	98.5	6,471	6,377	98.5	6,278	6,237	99.3	0.8
Fort Lauderdale	6,537	6,399	97.9	6,733	6,577	97.7	6,653	6,609	99.3	1.4
Piper	7,999	7,855	98.2	7,906	7,766	98.2	7,893	7,837	99.3	1.1
Blanche Ely	8,690	8,466	97.4	8,671	8,487	97.9	8,537	8,472	99.2	1.8
Cypress Bay	13,468	13,354	99.2	13,560	13,451	99.2	13,311	13,204	99.2	0.0
Deerfield Beach	6,310	6,104	96.7	6,351	6,160	97.0	6,312	6,260	99.2	2.5
Dillard	7,361	7,151	97.1	7,243	7,131	98.5	6,954	6,896	99.2	2.1
Flanagan	7,205	7,076	98.2	7,011	6,922	98.7	6,866	6,813	99.2	1.0
Hallandale	4,950	4,731	95.6	4,861	4,667	96.0	4,808	4,769	99.2	3.6
Stranahan	4,854	4,730	97.4	4,833	4,705	97.4	4,974	4,928	99.1	1.7
Coral Springs	6,306	6,158	97.7	6,196	6,067	98.3	5,988	5,916	98.8	1.1
Hollywood Hills	6,841	6,676	97.6	6,774	6,620	97.7	6,888	6,807	98.8	1.2
Miramar	6,276	6,088	97.0	6,727	6,542	97.2	6,611	6,529	98.8	1.8
Plantation	5,190	5,070	97.7	4,983	4,875	97.8	4,878	4,821	98.8	1.1
South Broward	5,375	5,240	97.5	5,209	5,084	97.6	5,172	5,110	98.8	1.3

THIRD GRADE PROMOTION

Third Grade Promotion by Type. The majority of 2019-20 third grade students (97%; $n=18,788$) were promoted to fourth grade by using local District alternative evidence. An additional 451 students were promoted by good cause (2%), while the remaining (1%; $n=225$) were retained (Figure 1).

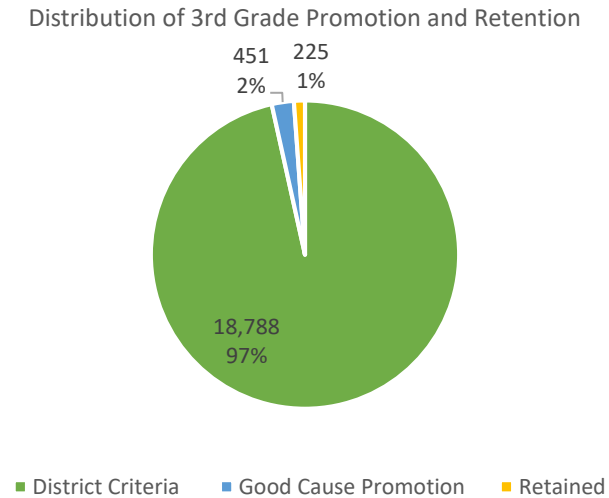


Figure 1. Distribution of 2019-20 third grade promotion and retention by type.

Third Grade Promotion by Specific Type. The majority of 2019-20 third good cause promotion students were promoted to fourth grade by Alternative Assessments, followed by ELL Program Participation. The remaining were promoted by a combination of Traditional/ESE Previous Retentions. A breakdown of the distributions is listed below.

Breakdown distribution of 2019-20 good cause promotion by specific type².

- Alternative Assessment: 54 students
- ELL Program Participation: 12 students
- Traditional/ESE Previous Retention: 10 students

²Note that the specific reason for good cause promotion could not be determined for 301 students. Also, there were 74 students with a promotion status code of "summer alternative assessment," a code of "summer," or a promotion code of "N." In all cases, the data for these students could not be verified.

Third Grade Promotion within Race/Ethnicity by Gender. Figure 2 illustrates promotion rates of Black, Hispanic, and White third grade BCPS students by gender for the 2019-20 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 Black female students, who had higher promotion rates than Hispanic female students (99.4%, 99.2%, and 99.0%, respectively). See also Appendix C for school-level promotion rates by gender and race/ethnicity and Appendix D for school-level promotion rates within race/ethnicity by gender.

The gender gap was greatest among Black students. That is, for the Black student subgroup there was a 0.7 percentage point gap between female and male students. Hispanic students had a 0.5 percentage point gap, and White students had a 0.4 percentage point gap. In each case, females exhibited the highest promotion rates. Overall, the highest promotion rates were for White females (99.4%), followed closely by Black females (99.2%).

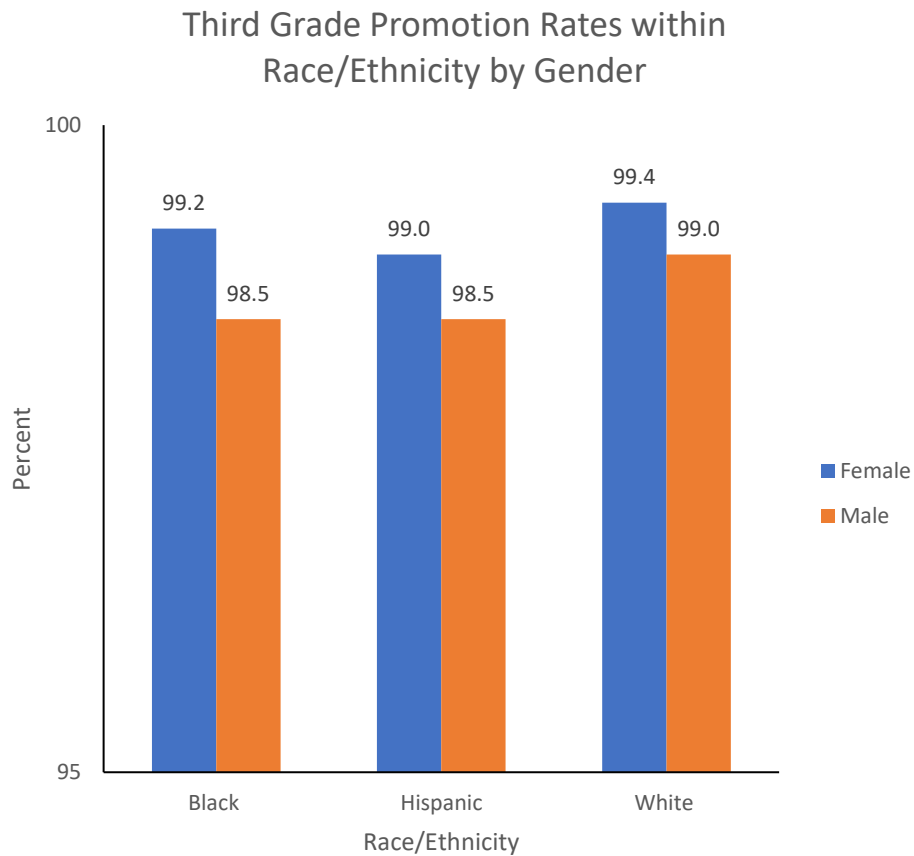


Figure 2. Third-grade promotion rates within race/ethnicity by gender, 2019-20.

Figures 3a and 3b present District-wide third-grade promotion rate gaps by gender for the Black, Hispanic, and White student subgroups for 2017-18 through 2019-20. For both genders, all the gaps between Black, Hispanic, and White students decreased by several percentage points.

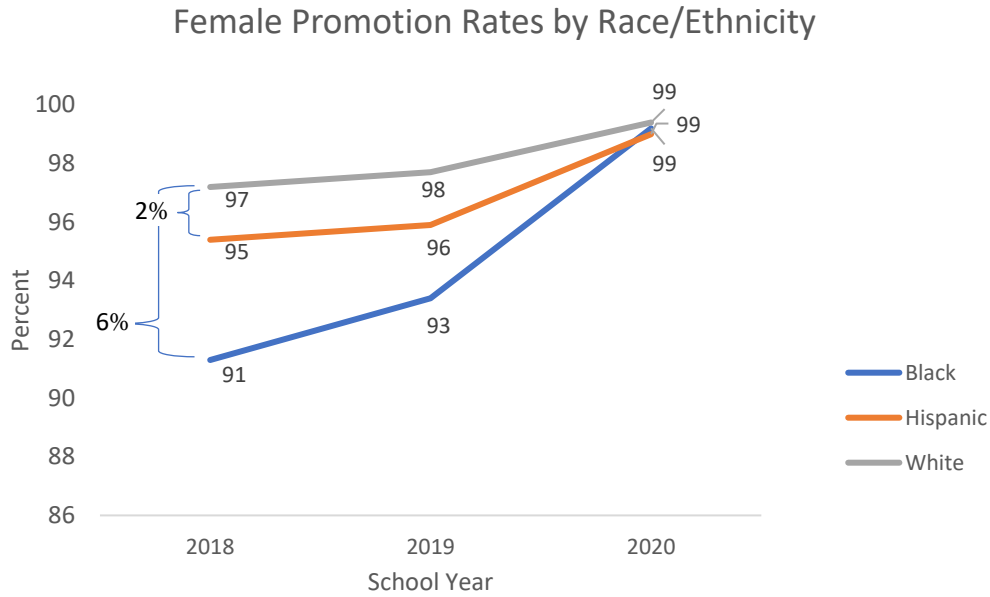


Figure 3a. Third-grade female promotion rate gaps, 2018-2020².

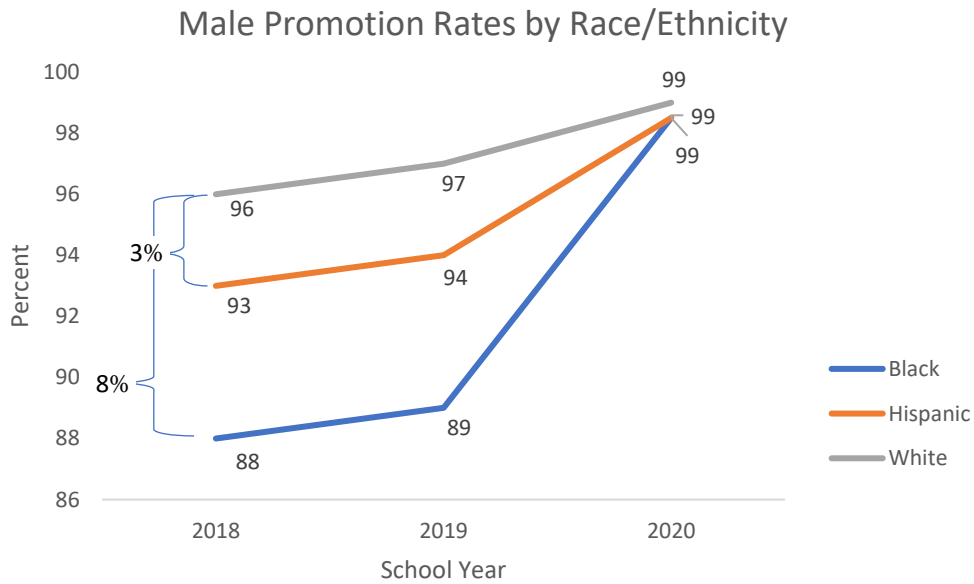


Figure 3b. Third-grade male promotion rate gaps, 2018-2020³.

² 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.

³ 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 2017-18 through 2019-20 school years. Overall, promotion rates for all grade levels and sub-populations increased across the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. It is believed these increases were due to the suspension of statewide testing due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The majority (92%) of third grade students were promoted to fourth grade by using District alternative evidence. An additional 7% of students were promoted by good cause, while 1% percent were retained in third grade in the following school year. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Third Grade Summer Reading Academy was not used to promote students during the Summer of 2020.

For third grade students within each racial/ethnic group, females had a higher promotion rate. Promotion rates for all student sub-populations also displayed slightly higher rates between 2017-18 and 2019-20.

Twenty-three innovation zones had overall promotion rates at 99% or greater. All schools experienced an increase or remained stable in promotion rates, with Cypress Bay High and West Broward High which remained stable.

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 2019-20 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 2019-20 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 privacy. 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 8, 2020 from [http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student Progression Plan 2019-2020.pdf](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/sbbcpolicies/docs/Policy%206000_1-Student%20Progression%20Plan%202019-2020.pdf)

School Board of Broward County, Florida. (2020, April 24). Pivot Memo: Guidance to teachers and administrators on grading assignments, completing interim reports, entering fourth quarter grades, the role of final exams and End-Of-Course examinations for secondary teachers, determination of final grades, and determination of promotion or retention. Retrieved on September 8, 2020 from <https://www.btuonline.com/pdf/GradingInterimsandMore0428.pdf>

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