

RESEARCH BRIEF

Department of Research Services

Vol. 0305
June 2004

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Retention in 3rd Grade in 2004: A Preliminary Report

The current discussion concerns a preliminary analysis based on conditional definitions that may change due to refinements over time. For instance, “retained” students are operationally defined here as students who have FCAT Reading scores for 3rd grade in 2003 and again in 3rd grade for 2004. Those likely to be promoted for “good cause” (approximately 1,949 students) were not considered as scheduled for retention.

For reference purposes, prior to the FCAT promotion mandate, only 757 (3%) of 3rd graders were retained in 2002.

In June of 2003, it appeared that 6,622 3rd graders would be retained. Of this number, 5,621 were found to have 3rd grade FCAT Reading scores in 2004. These matched students compose the group of retained students from 2003 for this analysis.

Of the 5,621 students in 3rd grade in 2004 **retained from 2003:**

2,161 (38.4%) are scheduled to be retained for a second time in 2004;

3,460 (61.6%) are scheduled to be promoted in 2004.

Of the 25,760 students in 3rd grade in 2004 **for the first time:**

5,781 (22.4%) are scheduled to be retained for the first time in 2004;

19,979 (77.6%) are scheduled to be promoted in 2004.

Of the 31,381 total number of 3rd grade students in 2004 **(first time and repeaters):**

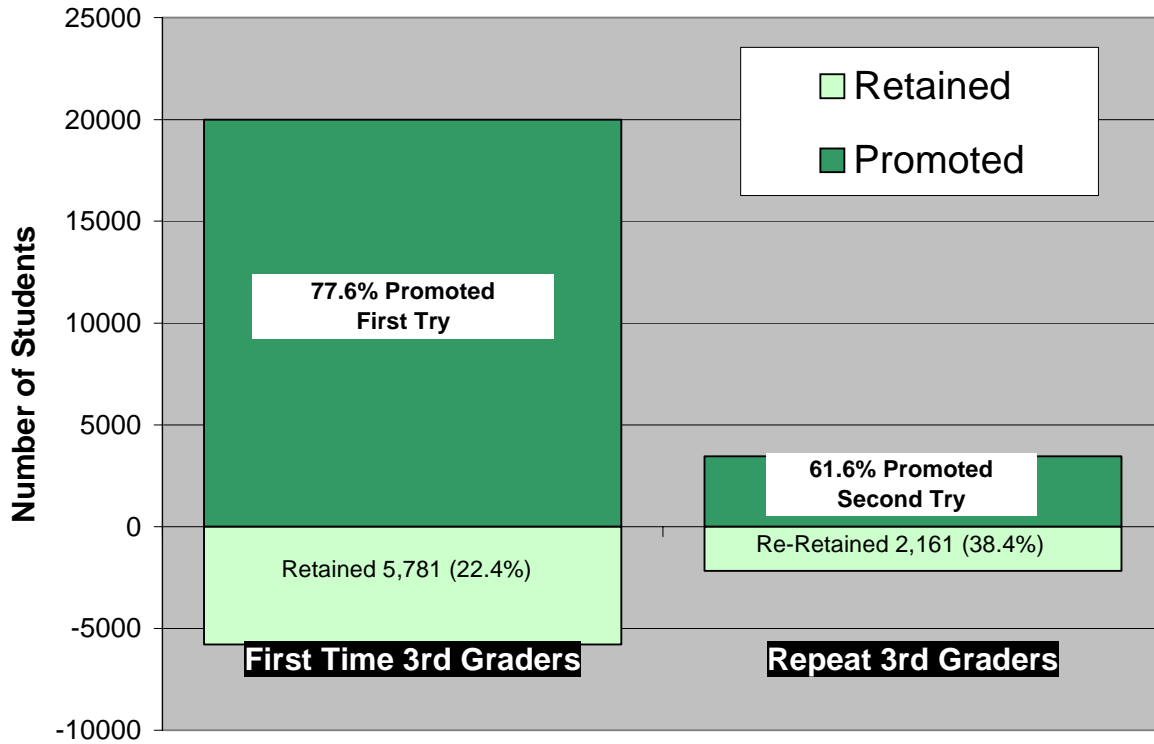
7,943 (25.3%) are scheduled to be retained in 2004;

23,438 (74.7%) are scheduled to be promoted in 2004.

(Note: results of students who may be promoted via portfolios have not been included in these rates.)

Original 6/3/04, Revised 6/21/04

What Happened to 3rd Graders in 2004?



How Did "Good Cause" Exemptions Perform?

