



Estimated Read by Grade 3 Retention Rates

**A Report Prepared for
the Michigan Department of
Education**

June 2019

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OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

- The Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) is the strategic research partner to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).
- EPIC provides technical research support to the MDE to improve education outcomes for Michigan students.
- To support the administration of the Read by Grade 3 law (RBG3), the MDE has asked EPIC to estimate retention rates for Michigan public school students.
- In response, we have estimated statewide retention rates, retention rates for sub-group classifications of tested students, and tested students in different school types and geographic locales.
- We have also calculated upper and lower bound estimates of RBG3 retention rates to provide a range of potential outcomes under the law.



Read by Grade Three Retention Rates

ESTIMATION METHOD:

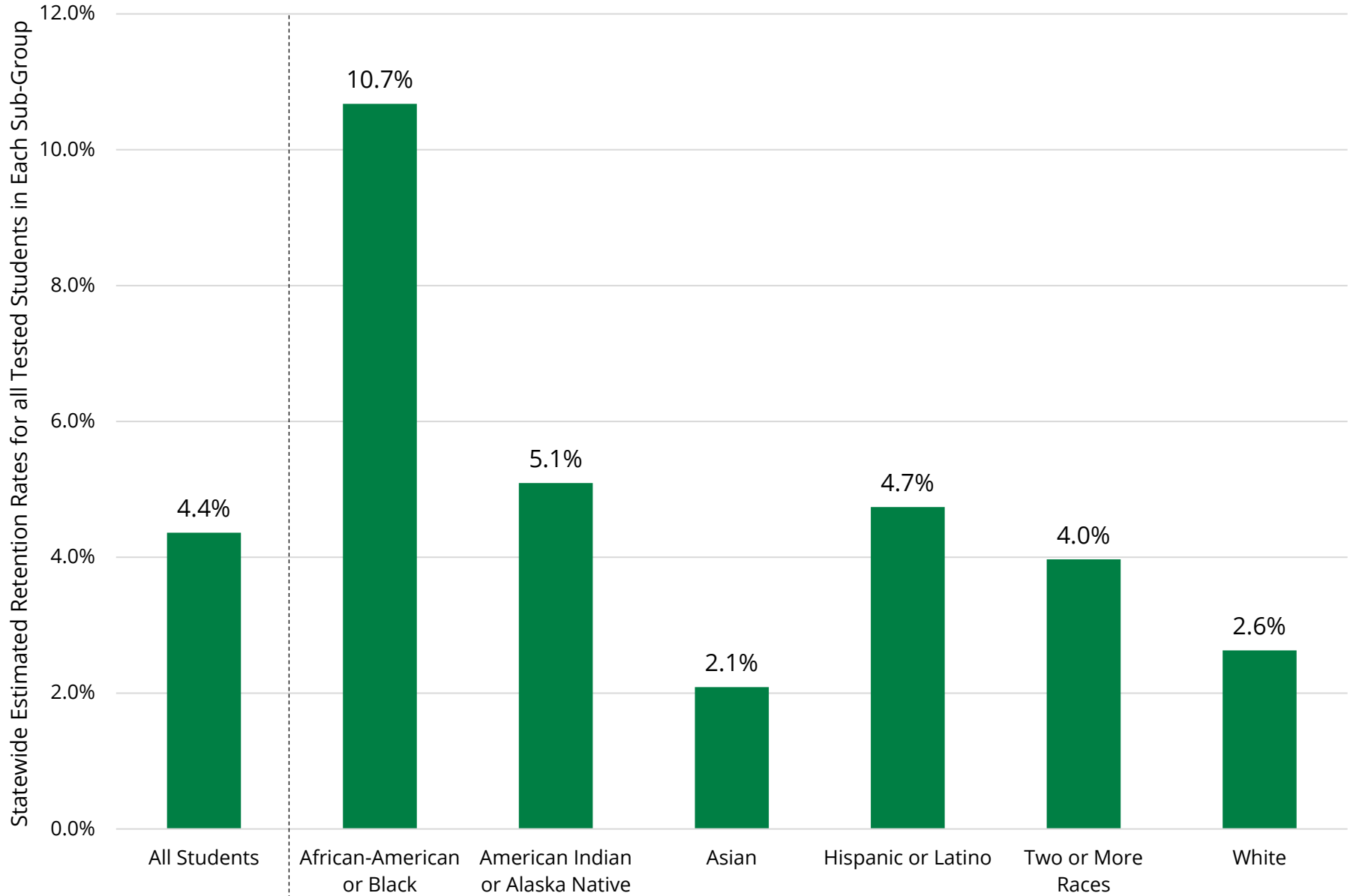
- We use 2017-18 Grade 3 M-STEP ELA results to estimate the percentage of tested students who would be retained under RBG3 Category 1 with a score of 1252 or lower.
- We estimate lower bounds by assuming all Category 1 English Learner (EL), students with disabilities (SWD), students with 504 plans and previously retained students are promoted via Good Cause Exemptions.
- We provide sub-group estimates by student characteristics. Student subgroup percentages are based on the total number of student who took the test within each subgroup:
 - Race/Ethnicity;
 - Gender;
 - Economic disadvantage (ED);
 - English learners (EL); and
 - Students with disabilities (SWD).
- We provide estimates by school characteristics:
 - Partnership status and ELA achievement quartile;
 - Public School Academy versus Local Education Agency; and
 - Urban locale.

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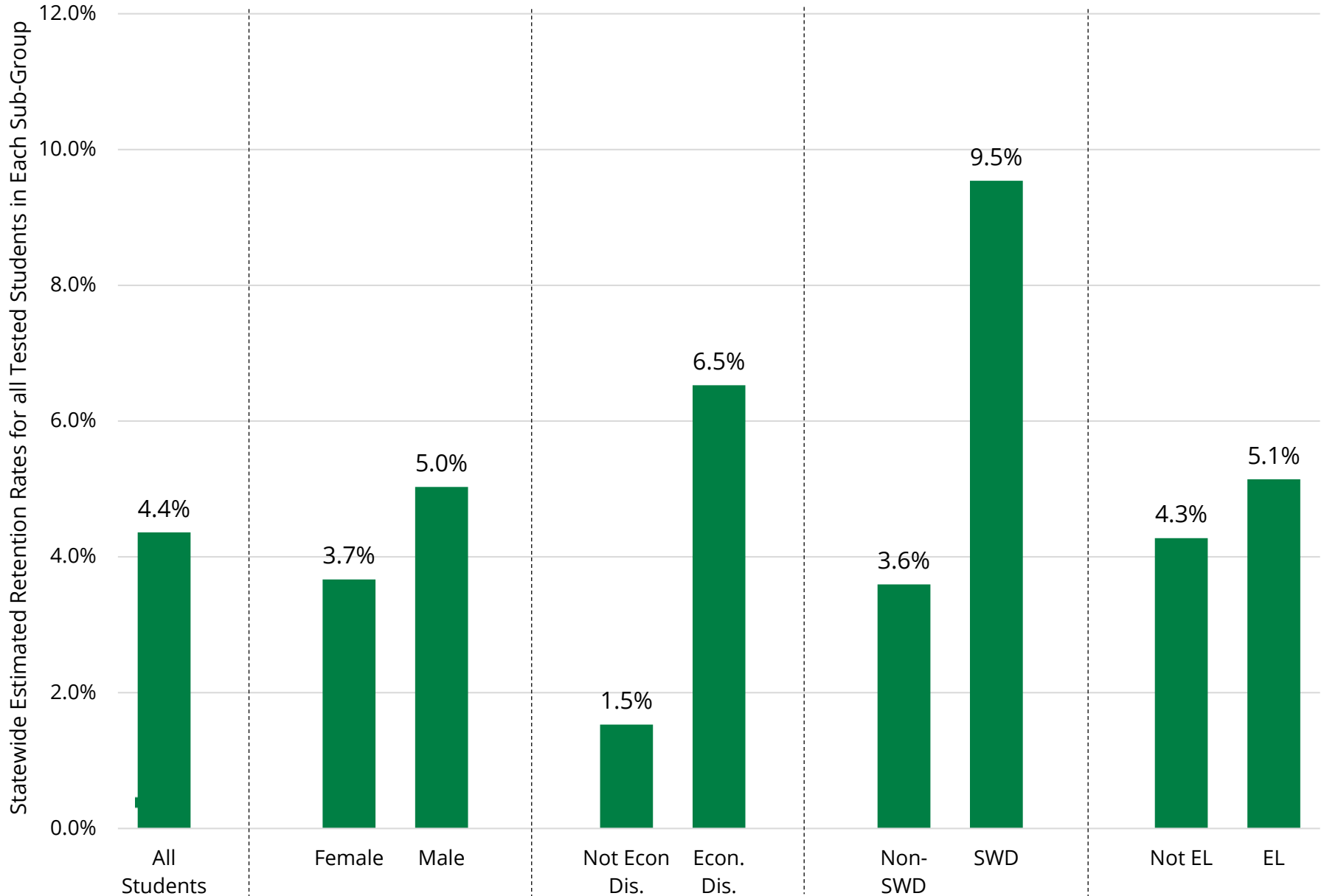
LOWER BOUND ESTIMATES:

- Students whose test scores fall into Category 1 but are in one of the following categories may be promoted to 4th grade with the approval of the district superintendent through a Good Cause Exemption:
 - *English Learners* (11.65% of Category 1 students);
 - *SWDs* (28.19% of Category 1 students);
 - *Students with a 504 plan* (0.90% of Category 1 students); and
 - *Previously Retained Students* (24.40% of Category 1 students).
- We estimate lower bounds by assuming all Category 1 EL, SWD, students with 504 plans and previously retained students are promoted under the Good Cause Exemption.
- Estimates do not account for students receiving a Good Cause Exemption due to switching schools within the last two years, parent requests, or portfolios demonstrating proficiency.

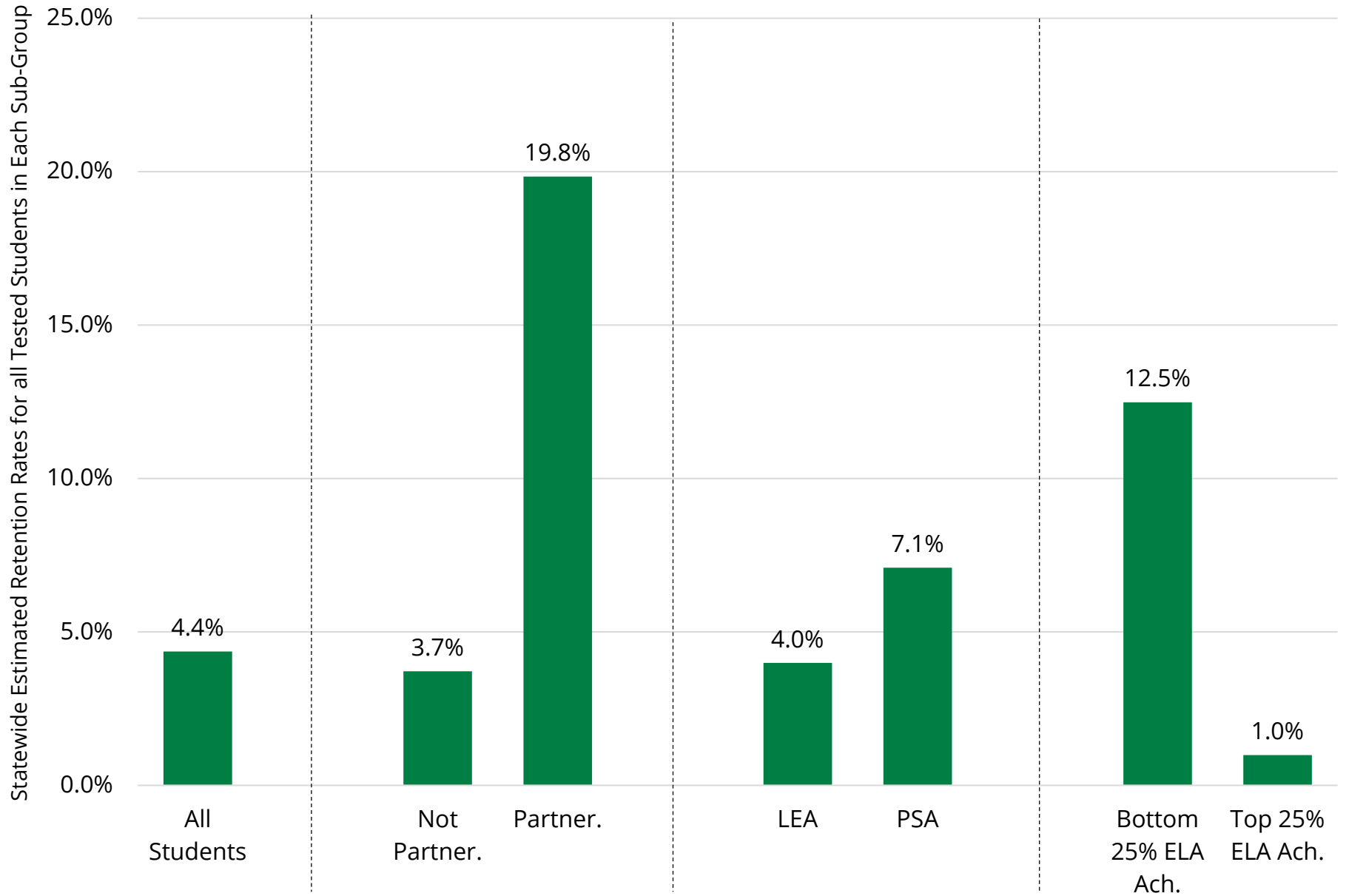
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity



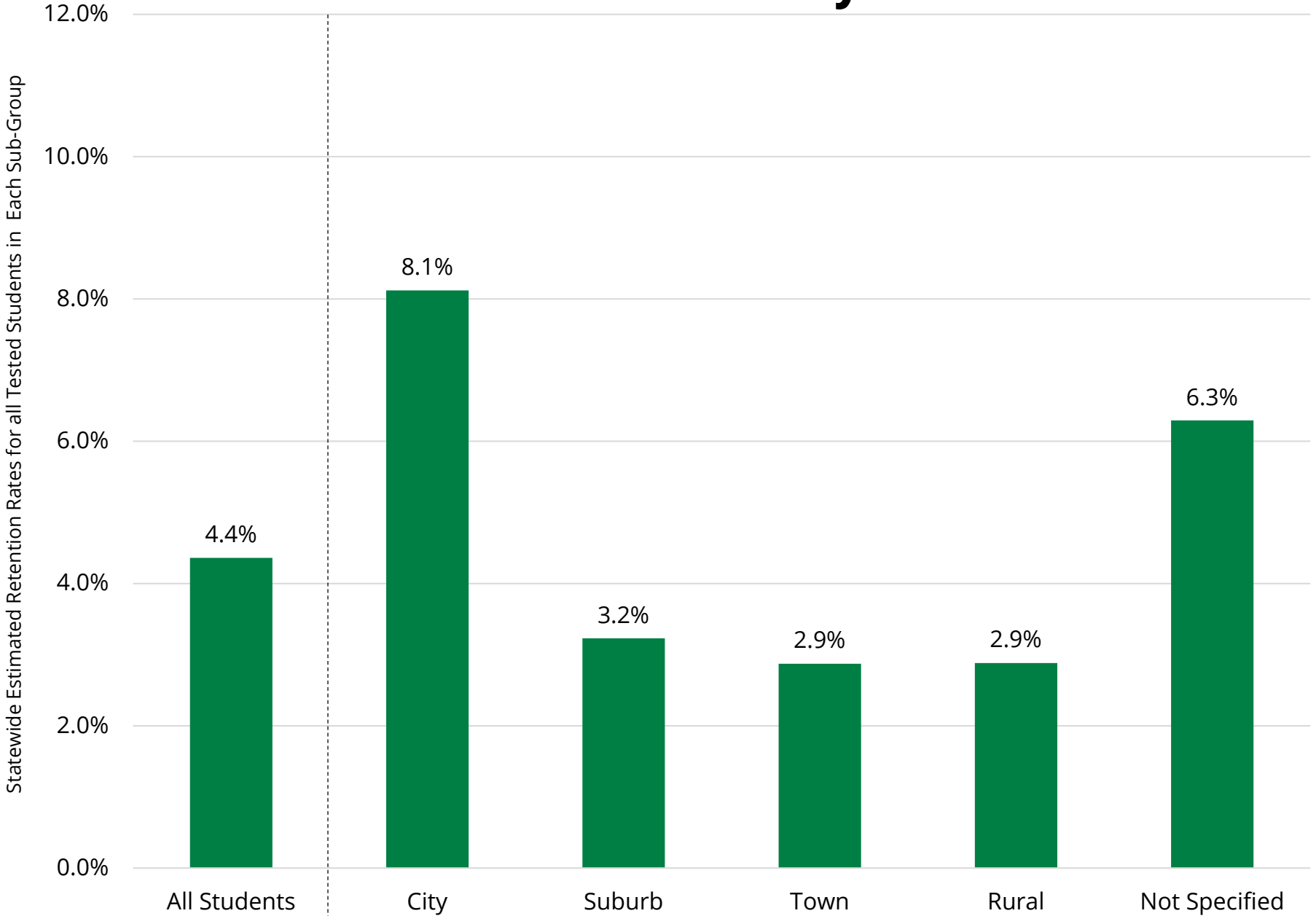
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by Student Characteristics



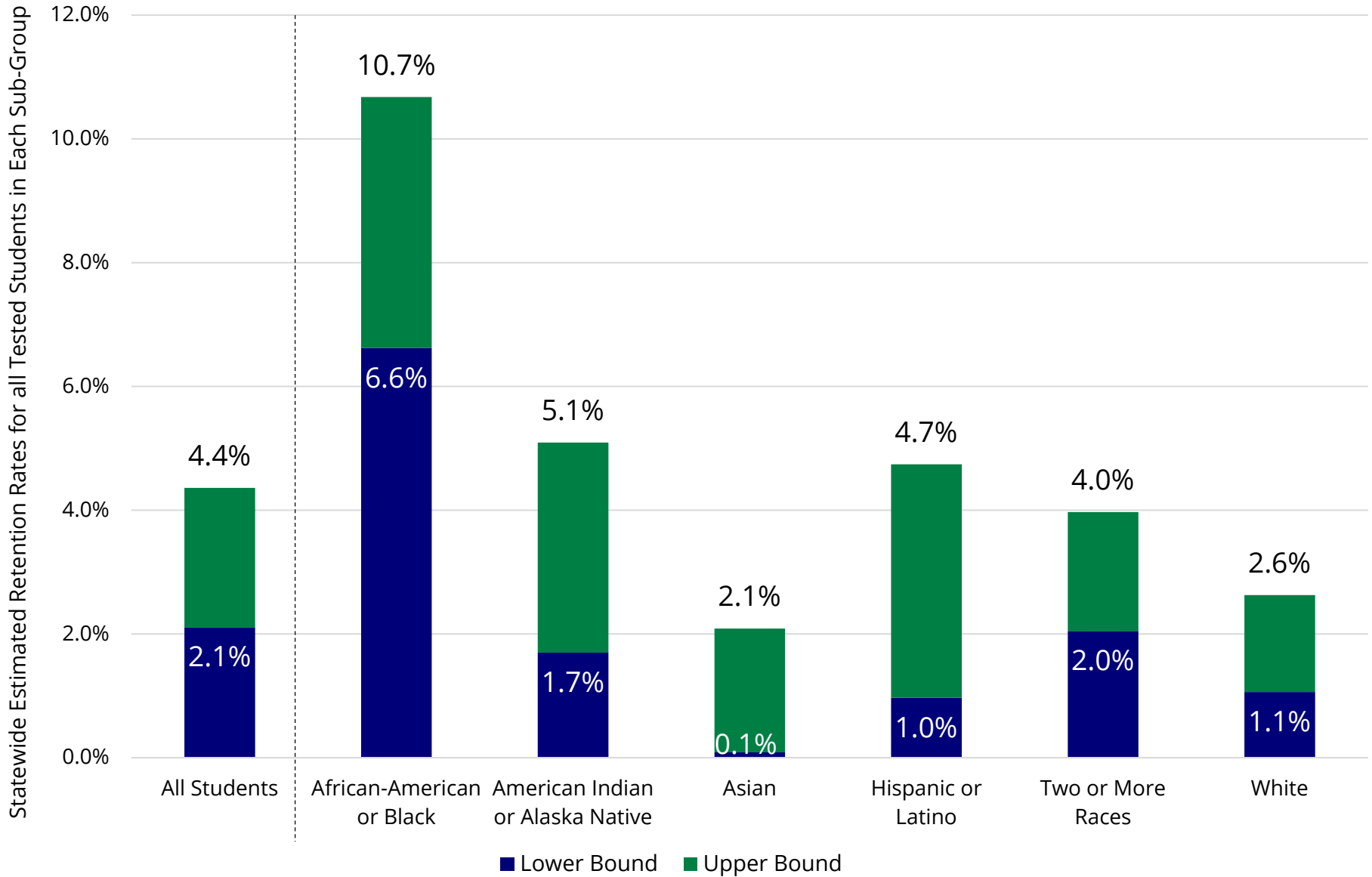
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by School Characteristics



Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by School Urbanicity

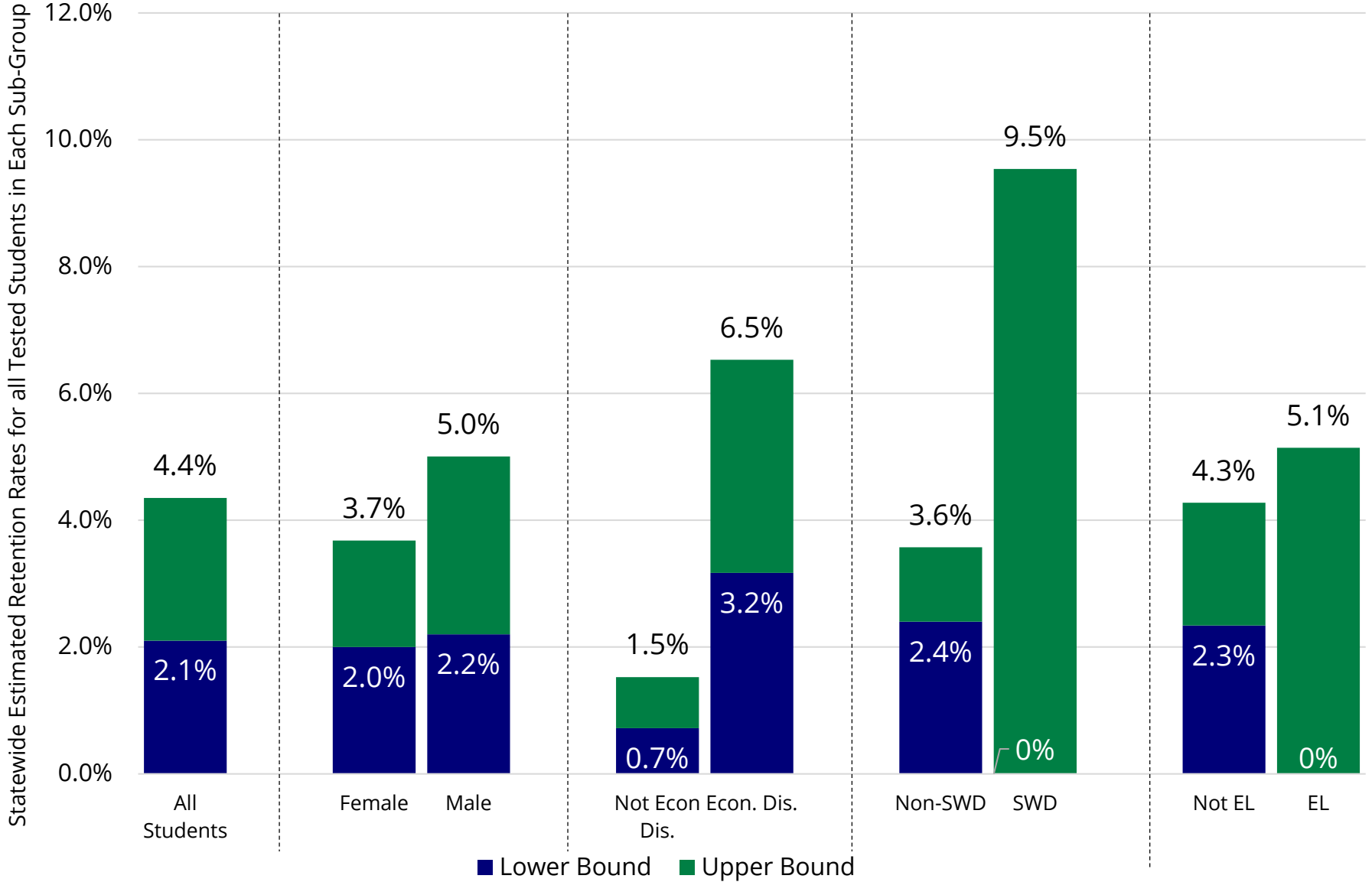


Estimated Upper and Lower Bounds of RBG3 Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity



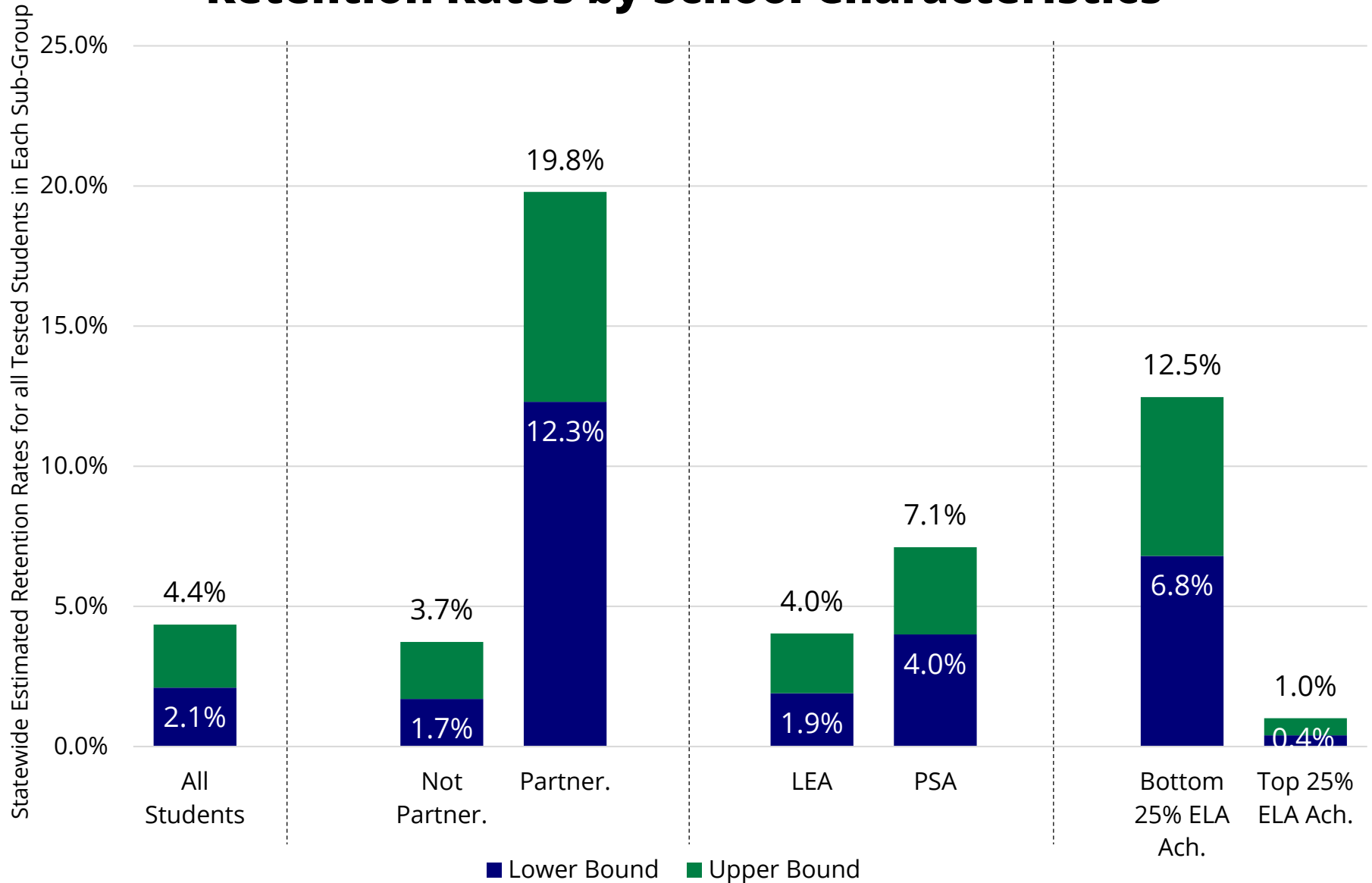
Note: Lower bounds are created by assuming all EL, SWD, students with 504 plans, and previously retained students in Category 1 are promoted under a Good Cause Exemption outlined in statute.

Estimated Upper and Lower Bounds of RBG3 Retention Rates by Student Characteristics



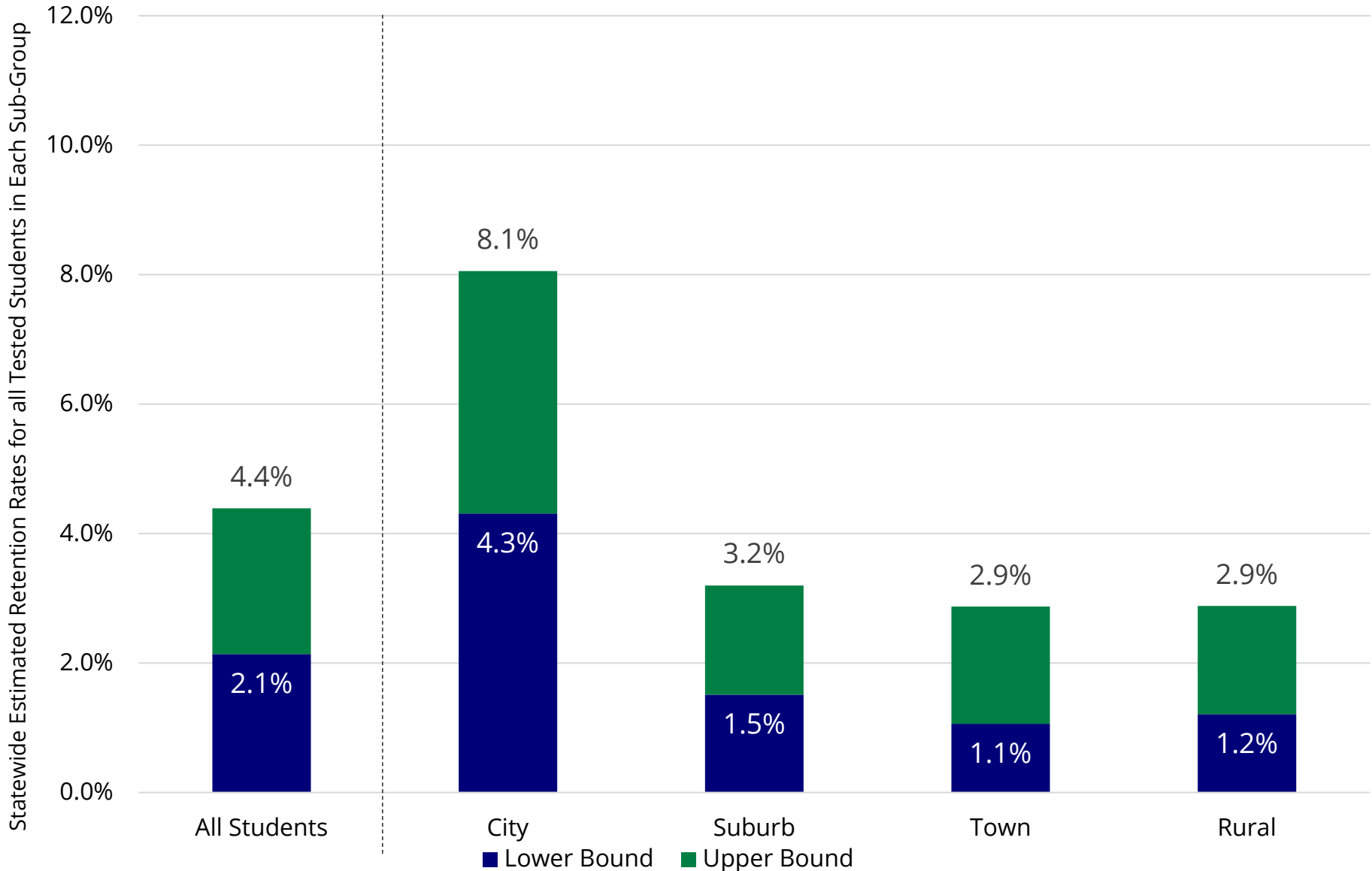
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Estimated Upper and Lower Bounds of RBG3 Retention Rates by School Characteristics



Note: Lower bounds are created by assuming all EL, SWD, students with 504 plans, and previously retained students in Category 1 are promoted under a Good Cause Exemption outlined in statute.

Estimated Upper and Lower Bounds of RBG3 Retention Rates by School Urbanicity



Note: Lower bounds are created by assuming all EL, SWD, students with 504 plans, and previously retained students in Category 1 are promoted under a Good Cause Exemption outlined in statute.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Depending on how many students receive Good Cause Exemptions, estimates suggest that:

- Between 2% and 5% of 3rd graders may be retained as a result of Read by Grade 3.
- Between 7% and 11% of African Americans may be retained.
- Up to 10% of Special Education students may be retained.
- Between 12-20% of students in Partnership Schools may be retained.
- Between 2-4% of students in Traditional Public Schools may be retained and between 4-7% of students in Public School Academies may be retained.



Education Policy Innovation Collaborative

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