Estimated Read by Grade 3 Retention Rates

Updated January 2020
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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 MDE to improve education outcomes for Michigan students.

• To support the administration of the Read by Grade 3 law (RBG3), 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 2018-19 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. **These rates may be different than actual rates on 2019-20 M-STEP.**

• 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 students 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 (PSA) versus Local Education Agency (LEA); 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* (10.85% of Category 1 students);
  – *Students with disabilities* (28.71% of Category 1 students);
  – *Students with a 504 plan* (1.09% of Category 1 students); and
  – *Previously Retained Students* (22.76% 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/teacher requests, or portfolios demonstrating proficiency.
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- All Students: 4.1%
- African-American or Black: 10.5%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 3.8%
- Asian: 1.7%
- Hispanic or Latino Two or more races: 4.5%
- White: 3.9%
- Two or more races: 2.3%
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by Student Characteristics

- All Students: 4.1%
- Female: 3.5%
- Male: 4.6%
- Not Econ. Dis.: 1.3%
- Econ. Dis.: 6.3%
- Not SWD: 3.4%
- SWD: 8.7%
- Not EL: 4.0%
- EL: 4.7%
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by School Characteristics

Statewide Estimated Retention Rate

- All Students: 4.1%
- LEA: 3.7%
- PSA: 7.2%
- Not Partner: 3.5%
- Partner: 19.1%
- Bottom 25% ELA: 12.1%
- Top 25% ELA: 0.9%
Estimated RBG3 Retention Rates by School Urbanicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Retention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

#### Statewide Estimated Retention Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated Upper Bound</th>
<th>Estimated Lower Bound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Econ. Dis.</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ. Dis.</td>
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<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not SWD</td>
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<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWD</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not EL</td>
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Estimated Upper and Lower Bounds of RBG3 Retention Rates by School Characteristics

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

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KEY TAKEAWAYS:

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

• Between 2% and 4% 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 9% of Special Education students may be retained.

• Between 12% and 19% of students in Partnership Schools may be retained.

• Between 2% and 4% of students in Local Education Agencies may be retained and between 4% and 7% of students in Public School Academies may be retained.

• There is widespread variation across the state in the proportion of students who may be flagged for retention.