

Student Promotion/Retention in South Carolina Public Schools, 2004–05

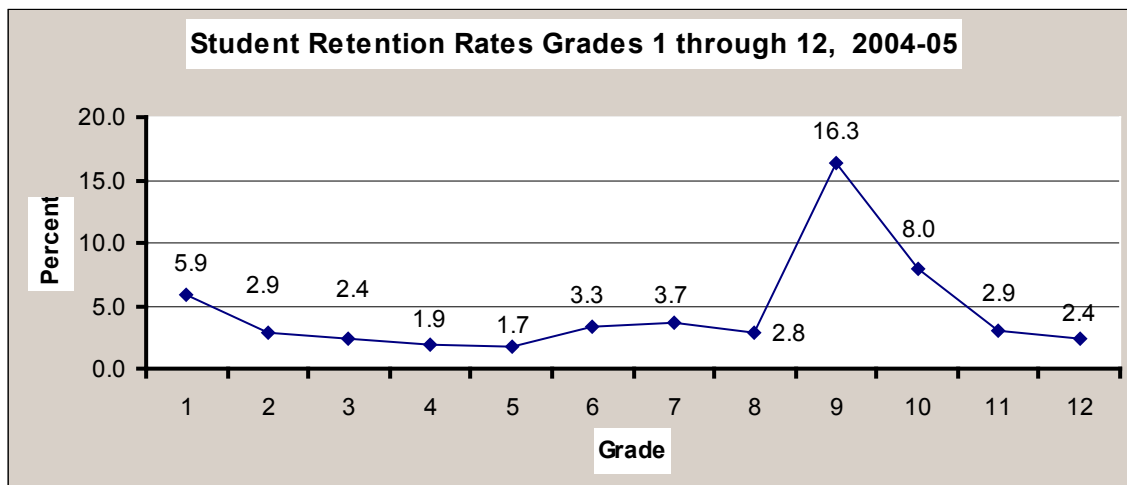
South Carolina Department of Education
Office of Research

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The analysis of 2004–05 promotion/retention rates for grades one through twelve is based on the precode data files for the 2003–04 and the 2004–05 school year. A total of 628,309 students in grades one through twelve who were reported in the precode files were included in the analysis. Of these students, 598,205 (95.2 percent) were promoted, while 30,104 (4.8 percent) were retained in the same grade for the 2004–05 school year.

STATEWIDE RETENTION RATES, 2004–05			
Grade 1 Through 12			
Grade	Number Enrolled	Retained	
		Number	Percent
1	53,777	3,189	5.9
2	51,379	1,486	2.9
3	50,901	1,201	2.4
4	52,042	985	1.9
5	53,040	918	1.7
6	55,692	1,821	3.3
7	57,300	2,097	3.7
8	56,440	1,581	2.8
9	64,191	10,460	16.3
10	52,906	4,226	8.0
11	41,924	1,231	2.9
12	38,717	909	2.4
Total	628,309	30,104	4.8

As shown in the following chart, the highest retention rate occurs in grade nine (16.3 percent) followed by grade ten (8.0 percent) and the first grade (5.9 percent). Rates in the other grades range from 1.7 percent to 3.7 percent. The lowest retention rate is in grade five (1.7 percent) followed by grade four (1.9 percent).



By Ethnicity

The table below shows the retention rates in grades one through twelve by ethnicity and gender. The retention rates for white students ranged from 1.2 percent to 12.1 percent, while the rates for African American students ranged from 2.2 percent to 21.7 percent. The retention rates for students with ethnicities other than White or African American ranged from 1.3 percent to 13.6 percent. The results showed that African American students were most likely to be retained.

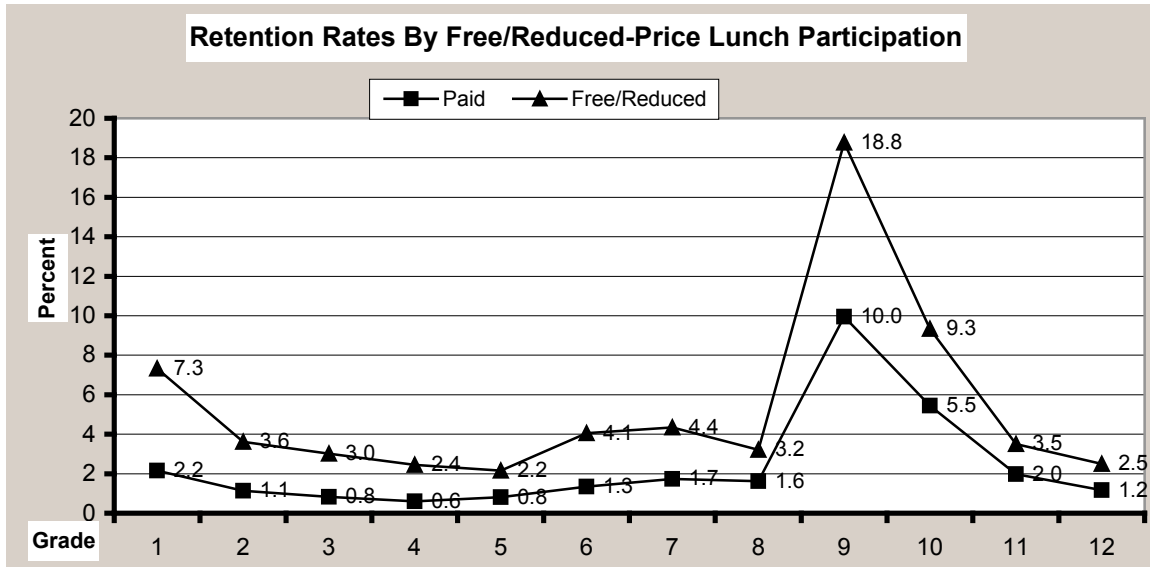
By Gender

The table also shows that the rates for male students ranged from 2.2 percent to 18.4 percent, while the retention rates for female students ranged from 1.2 percent to 14.0 percent. Retention rates for male students were higher than for female students in every grade.

RETENTION RATES BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS 2004-05					
Grade	Ethnicity			Gender	
	White	African American	Other	Male	Female
1	4.6	7.8	5.7	7.4	4.4
2	2.1	4.1	2.7	3.4	2.4
3	1.6	3.5	2.1	2.8	1.9
4	1.2	2.9	1.4	2.3	1.5
5	1.4	2.2	1.3	2.2	1.2
6	2.5	4.4	1.8	4.2	2.3
7	2.9	4.8	1.9	4.8	2.5
8	2.4	3.5	2.0	3.5	2.0
9	12.1	21.7	13.6	18.4	14.0
10	6.1	10.8	6.4	9.4	6.5
11	2.2	4.1	2.8	3.8	2.1
12	1.9	3.0	2.4	2.9	1.8

By Free/Reduced-Price Participation

The following chart presents retention rates by free/reduced-price lunch program participation status. The retention rates for students who participated in free/reduced-priced lunch programs ranged from 2.2 percent to 18.8 percent, while rates for students who did not participate in the lunch programs ranged from 0.6 percent to 10.0 percent. Students who did not participate in the free/reduced-price lunch programs were less likely to be retained than were students who participated in free/reduced-price lunch programs.



By Ethnicity and Gender

When the retention rates are examined by ethnicity and gender, the lowest retention rates occur in the white female student group, ranging from 1.0 percent to 10.2 percent as shown in the table below. The group with the second-lowest retention rates is that of other female students, whose retention rates ranged from 0.6 percent to 11.8 percent.

African American male students had the highest retention rates, ranging from 2.9 percent to 24.1 percent followed by African American female students whose retention rates ranged from 1.5 percent to 18.9 percent. The highest retention rate for all groups occurs in the ninth grade, followed by the tenth grade.

RETENTION RATES BY ETHNICITY AND GENDER 2004-05						
Grade	White		African American		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	5.9	3.2	9.6	5.9	6.5	4.8
2	2.3	1.9	5.1	3.1	2.7	2.6
3	1.9	1.3	4.2	2.8	2.2	1.9
4	1.5	1.0	3.5	2.2	1.6	1.3
5	1.8	1.0	2.9	1.5	1.6	1.0
6	3.3	1.7	5.7	3.2	2.1	1.5
7	3.7	2.1	6.4	3.3	3.1	0.6
8	3.1	1.6	4.3	2.7	2.8	1.2
9	13.9	10.2	24.1	18.9	15.2	11.8
10	7.4	4.7	12.5	9.1	7.4	5.5
11	2.9	1.5	5.3	3.0	3.7	2.0
12	2.3	1.6	4.0	2.1	2.6	2.2