

STUDENT MOBILITY A RESEARCH BRIEF

SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

THREE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the extent of student mobility in Sarasota County Public Schools?**
- 2. Do students who enter a Sarasota County school in kindergarten and remain in a Sarasota County school perform better academically than those students who enter a Sarasota County school at a later date?**
- 3. Do students enrolled in a Sarasota County school who move within or out of the school district demonstrate academic differences from students who do not demonstrate mobility?**

CONSIDERATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

- A **'Movement'** is when a student moves either to a different school with the same grade span within or out of the district. A typical grade span movement from elementary to middle to high school does not constitute a movement.
- Charter schools were **NOT** included in the analysis. Sarasota charter schools included different grade spans during the 14 years tracked in this study resulting in very small cell sizes that were too challenging to track.
- The **Graduation Cohort of 2016** was the group under study:
 - Entered Kindergarten in SY 2003-2004
 - Have FCAT Grade 3, Grade 10 data and were expected to graduate

I. WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF STUDENT MOBILITY IN SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

- **70% of students who enter a Sarasota County school before the Grade 3 assessment remain in their school. 52% of students remain stable by the end of Grade 10 and 50% remain stable through graduation.**
- **13% of students demonstrate multiple moves either to other district schools or in and out of district schools by graduation.**

2. DO STUDENTS WHO ENTER A SCHOOL IN KG AND REMAIN IN A SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL PERFORM BETTER ACADEMICALLY THAN STUDENTS WHO ENTER SCHOOL AT A LATER DATE?

- **Students who began KG on day one in Sarasota County scored 9 points higher on the Grade 3 FCAT than students who enter at a later date.**
- **Students who began KG on day one and remained at the school through grade 3 scored on average 75 points higher on the Grade 3 FCAT compared to students who began school later and moved multiple times in and out of the district.**

2. DO STUDENTS WHO ENTER A SCHOOL IN KG AND REMAIN IN A SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOL PERFORM BETTER ACADEMICALLY THAN STUDENTS WHO ENTER SCHOOL AT A LATER DATE?

- Students who began KG on day one and were not mobile though grade 10 scored on average 16 points higher on the Grade 10 FCAT compared to students who began school later and moved multiple times in and out of the district.**
- 98% of students who began KG on day one and were stable or made a single move graduated high school on time.**

3. DO STUDENTS WHO MOVE WITHIN OR OUT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC DIFFERENCES FROM STUDENTS WHO DO NOT DEMONSTRATE MOBILITY?

- **Students who moved multiple times within or out of the district had 11 to 13 point lower average scale scores on the Grade 10 FSA ELA than students who were not mobile.**
- **Students who moved multiple times out of the district schools had the highest dropout rate at over 34%**

SUMMARY

- **Students who demonstrate limited or no mobility, had the greatest academic success.**
- **Entering KG anytime after the first day of school negatively impacted future academic performance.**
- **Student movements within grade spans negatively impacted Grade 3 and Grade 10 academic performance AND on-time graduation rates.**