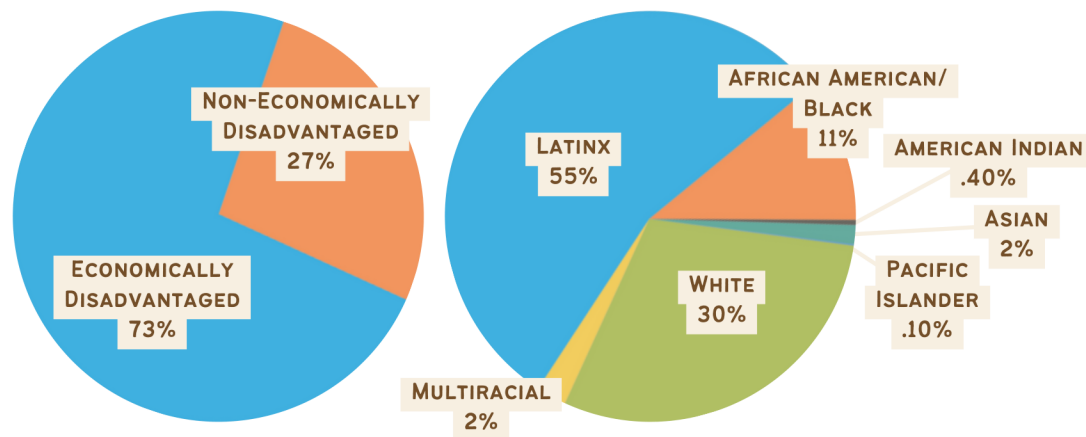


RETENTION IN THE EARLY GRADES

When schools don't have the resources to ensure every student succeeds, some kids get left behind and end up repeating a grade level. Early grade retention can affect a student's probability of dropping out of school before they earn their high school diploma.

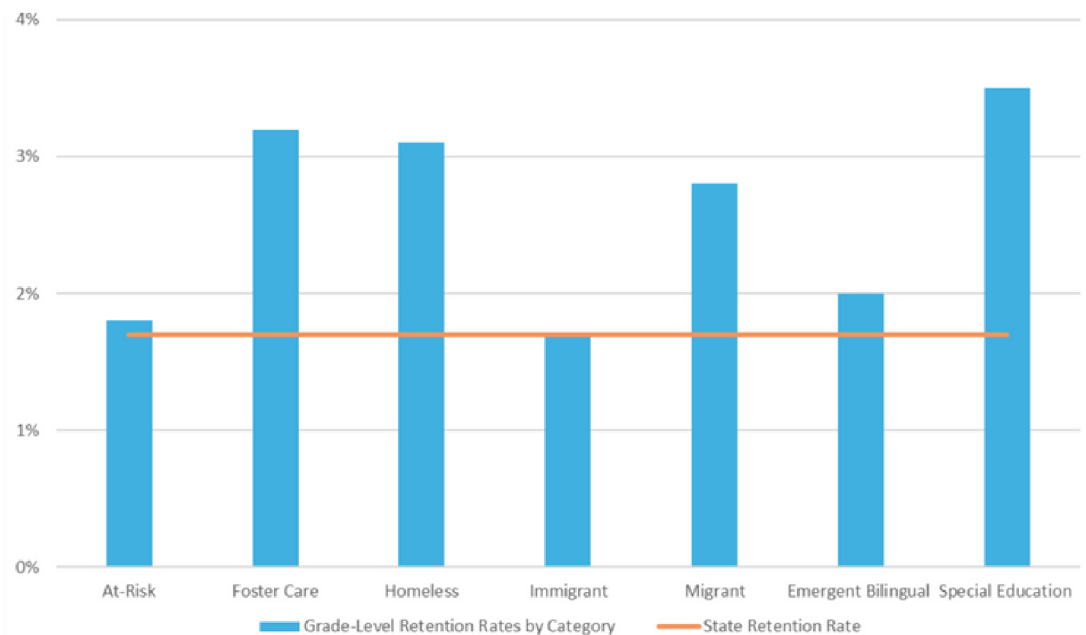
Our school finance system fails to fully support students with the greater needs and those that have been historically marginalized. As a result, Latinx students and economically disadvantaged students are most likely to experience retention in early grades (kindergarten through 3rd grade).

During the 2019-20 school year, close to 20,000 K-3 students were retained. Yet, **over half of these students were Latinx**. Close to 75% of these retained students were economically disadvantaged, even though only 60% of students are classified as economically disadvantaged.



STUDENTS WITH GREATER NEEDS ARE RETAINED AT RATES ABOVE THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE

For students in kindergarten through 3rd grade, the retention rates for at-risk students (1.8%), students in foster care (3.2%), students experiencing housing insecurities (3.1%), and migrant students (2.8%) surpass the state retention rate (1.7%). Early grade students that receive Section 504 and special education accommodations also have higher retention rates.



1. Hughes, Jan N., Stephen G. West, Hanjoe Kim, and Shelby S. Bauer. 2018. "Effect of Early Grade Retention on School Completion: A Prospective Study." *Journal of Educational Psychology* 974-991.
 2. Texas Education Agency, Grade-Level Retention in Texas Public Schools, 2019-20 (Graphs)