



# How Does The Maine School Bus Purchase Program Work?

August 29, 2016

# Learning Objectives

1. Explain the Maine school bus purchase program
  - What does the program data look like?
  - How are districts put on a list to be considered for a bus purchase?
  - How are bus approval decisions made?

This program supports the Maine DOE Strategic Plan core priority 5: coordinated and effective state support.

# Maine School Bus Purchase Program

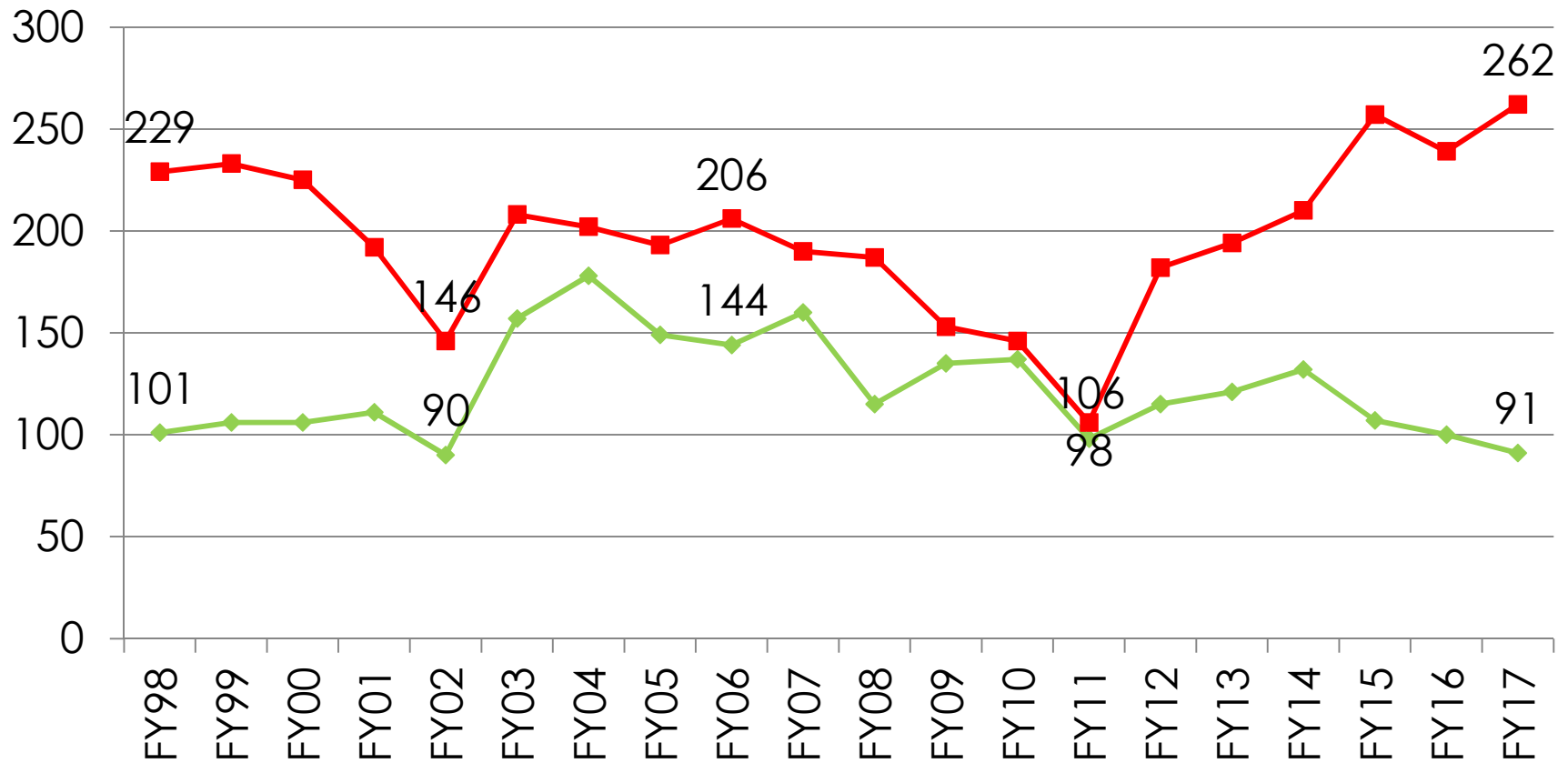


# Program Purpose

- The purpose of the Maine School Bus Purchase Program is to achieve the most equitable distribution of limited dollars to maintain a modern safe fleet of school buses and respond to unique and emergency bus needs

Note: Districts are responsible for school bus maintenance.

# Program Data – Applications and Approvals

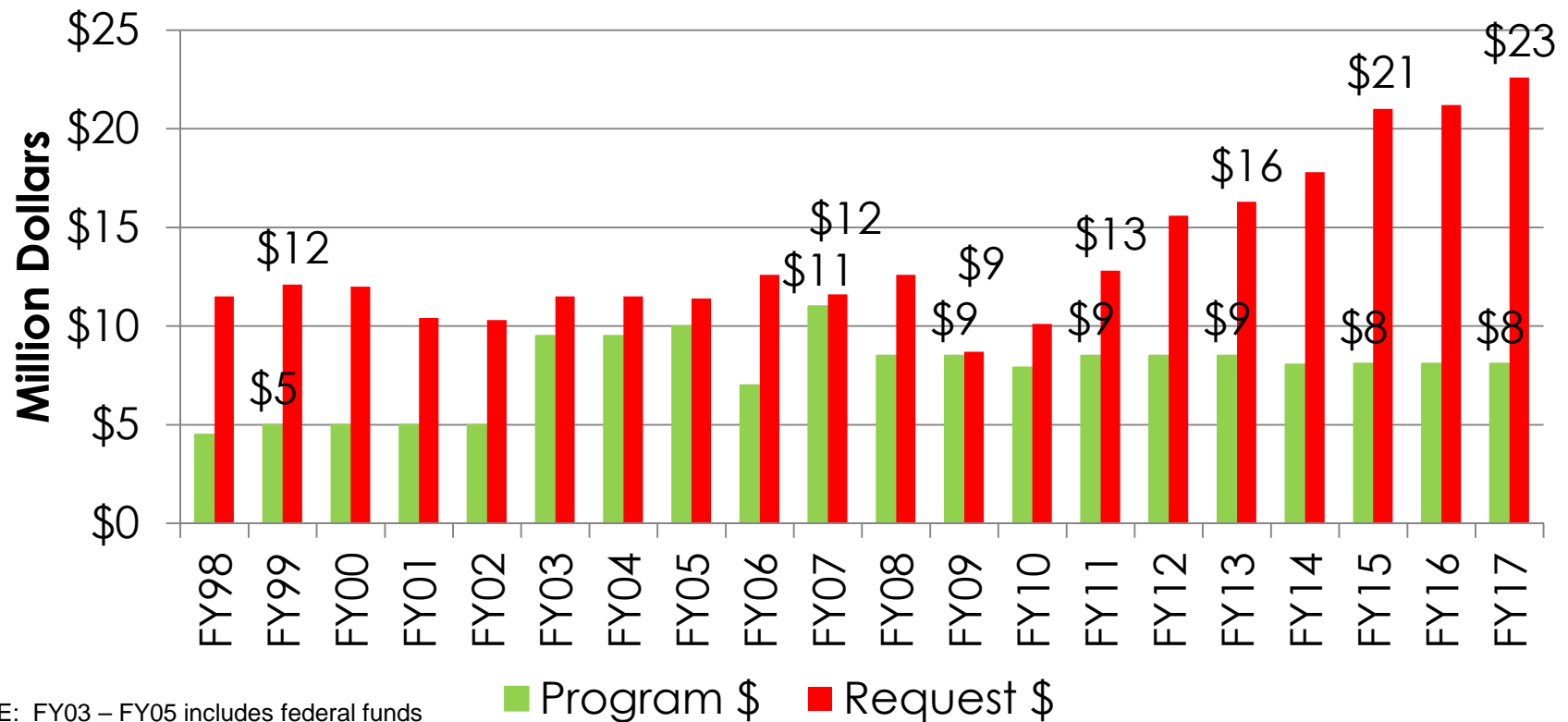


Note: FY03-FY05 includes federal funds

◆ Approvals    ■ Requests

# Program Data – Dollars

## Program Dollars Available vs. Bus Request Dollars



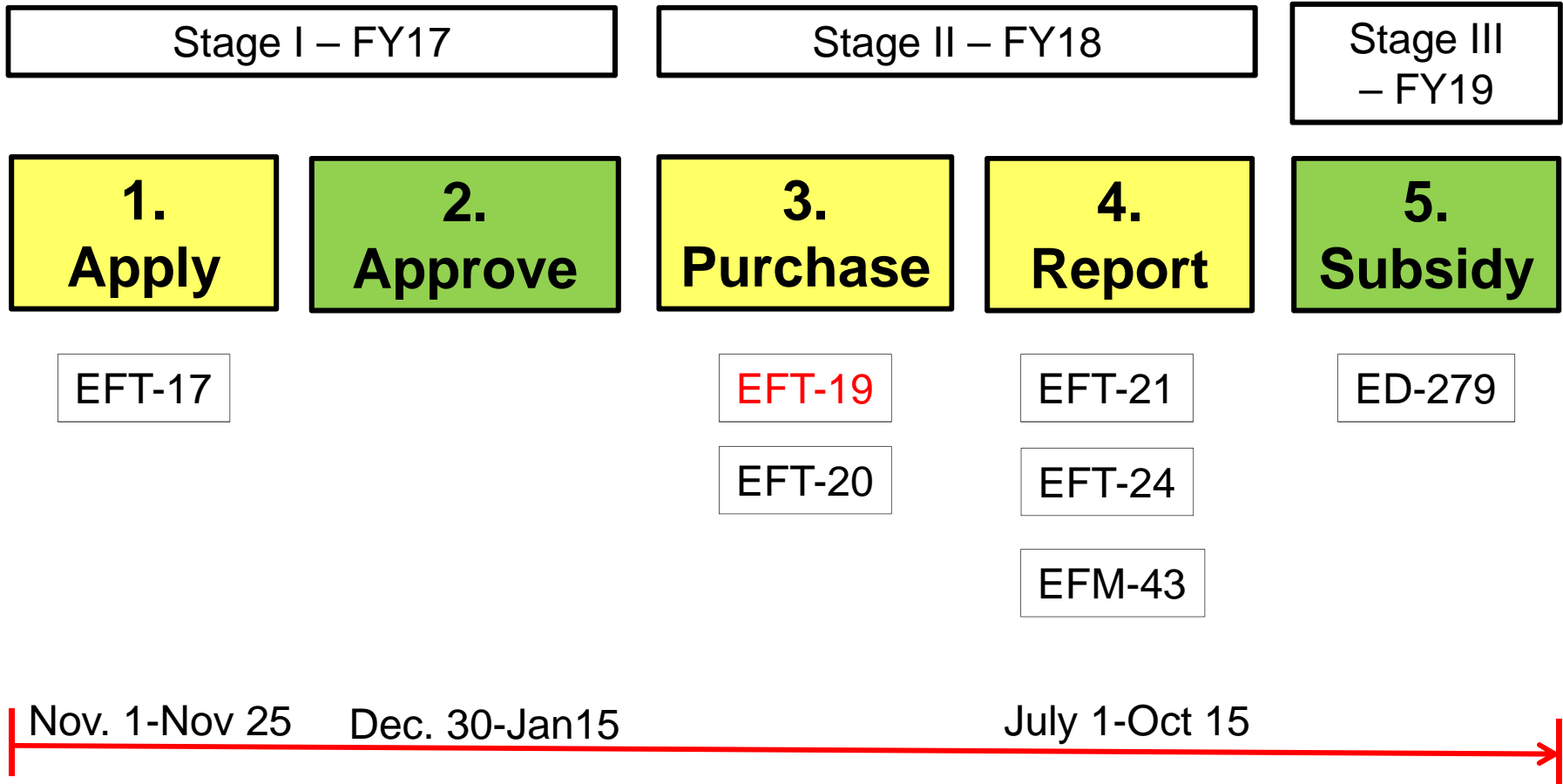
# Program Cycle

## – 3 Stages and 5 Steps Per Cycle

- Stage I 
  - 1. Application Nov. 1 – Nov. 25 (EF-T-17)
  - 2. Approval (Dec. 30 to Jan. 15)
- Stage II
  - 3. **Purchase** (EF-T-20) or cancel a bus (EFT-20A)
  - 4. Transportation reports
- Stage III
  - 5. Subsidy begins (ED 279)

# Program Cycle (cont.)

## – 3 Stages and 5 Steps Over 3 Years





# Program Cycle (cont.)

## – Different Stages Occur Each FY



	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
	Stage II	Stage III					
	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III				
		Stage I	<b>Stage II</b>	Stage III			
			<b>Stage I</b>	<b>Stage II</b>	<b>Stage III</b>		
Cycle FY17	→			Stage I	<b>Stage II</b>	Stage III	
Cycle FY18					Stage I	Stage II	Stage III
Cycle FY19						Stage I	Stage II



# Types of Program Applications

## – Two (2) Types

- 1. “**Bus replacement**” application
  - Replace an existing bus lost due to **emergency**
  - Replace an existing bus near the **end** of useful life
  - Add a new bus to the district fleet and remove the existing bus from service (sale or parts)
- 2. “**Addition to fleet**” application
  - Respond to unique district situations
  - Add a new bus to the district fleet **without** taking an existing bus out of service

# Minimum Program Qualifications

## – “Bus Replacement” (end of life) (A)

- Vans
  - Shall have **seven (7) years** useful life **and** accumulated 100,000 miles
- Type C school buses
  - Shall have **ten (10) years** useful life **and** accumulated 125,000 miles
- Type D school buses
  - Shall have **fifteen (15) years** useful life **and** accumulated 300,000 miles

NOTE: qualification is shown in NEO vehicle inventory under “replacement eligibility”

# Minimum Program Qualifications

## – “ Bus Replacement” (emergency) (A)

- A “bus replacement” emergency situation occurs when a bus is damaged beyond economic repair due to:
  - Accidents
  - Fire
  - Vandalism or
  - Other [total] losses

NOTE: to qualify districts must meet one (1) emergency qualification

# Minimum Program Qualifications

## – “Addition To Fleet” (unique) (B)

- An “addition to fleet” unique situation occurs when a district needs:
  - Buses equipped to transport the **handicapped**
  - Buses to accommodate increased **enrollment**
  - Buses for non-critical **special purposes**
  - Buses to replace **contracted services** (emergency)
  - Buses to replace **contracted services** (planned)

NOTE: to qualify districts must meet one (1) “addition to fleet” qualification

# How Are Buses Put On A List To Be Considered For A Bus Purchase?

- A district must submit an **application** for a new bus
  - School Bus Purchase Request (form EF-T-17)
    - “Bus replacement”
    - “Addition to fleet”
  - The forms are located in NEO Transportation
- Applications are received by the state annually
  - Open date: November 1
  - Close date: November 25
  - Emergency requests are open all year

# How Are Buses Put On A List To Be Considered For A Bus Purchase? (cont.)

## SAU Existing Vehicle Inventory Summary

SAU Name:    
 Status:



**Request Addition to Fleet**

Show  entries

VIN	LVN	Make	Vehicle Type	Bus Type	Capacity	Model Year	Mileage	Status	Replacement Eligibility	Navigation
1HVBBAAN0XH207383	23	Blue Bird	School Bus	C	42	1997	189200	In Service	Yes	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1HVBBAAN5VH482406	30	International	School Bus	C	42	1997	211345	In Service	Yes	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1HVBBAAP1VH469587	21	Blue Bird	School Bus	C	75	1997	176775	In Service	Yes	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1BAKGCKA16F233929	33	Blue Bird	School Bus	C	77	2006	171396	In Service	Yes	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1D4GP45R56B562517	26	Other	Minivan		7	2006	186879	In Service	Yes	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1BAANCPA0YF089707	09	Blue Bird	School Bus	D	84	1999	211592	In Service	No	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1BAANCPA6YF093518	17	Blue Bird	School Bus	D	84	2000	211592	In Service	No	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>
1BAANCPA92F204005	11	Blue Bird	School Bus	D	84	2002	203092	In Service	No	Select Link <input type="button" value="v"/>



Search:

- Select Link
- Select Link
- Request Replacement
- Emergency Replacement
- Request Refurbishment
- Prior Requests
- Edit
- Dispose
- Select Link
- Select Link
- Select Link

# Sample: District Application (EF-T-17)

## Details for School Bus Request Replacement

SAU: RSU 63/MSAD 63

Retiring Bus

Replaced Bus (Old)

VIN: 1HVBBAAP1VH469587  
 Model Year: 1997  
 Bus Type: C  
 Capacity: 75  
 Manufacturer:  
 Make: Blue Bird  
 LVN: 21

Replaced Bus (Old)

Age (in years): 20  
 Mileage (as reported 6/30): 176775

Requested Bus (New)

New Bus

1. School Bus Data:

1.1 Bus Capacity: 78  
 1.2 Lift Equipment: No  
 1.3 Type: C

2. Request Details:

2.1 Purchase Fiscal Year: 2017  
 2.2 Replacement Reason: Meets minimum requirements  
 2.3 Replacement Justification: High Mileage, High Age  
 2.4 Replacement Advanced Justification: N/A

3. Financial:

3.1 Payment Type: Lease Purchase  
 3.2 Payment Years: 3  
 3.3 SAU Replacement Cost Estimate: \$90,000.00  
 3.4 State Bid Value (Previous Fiscal Year): \$80,000.00



# Sample: State Approval Notice

Dashboard Home Admin Vehicle Inventory **Bus Purchase** Annual Data Reports Help

## SAU Requests Summary

Select SAU:   
Purchase Fiscal Year:   
Status:

Show  entries

Search:

Replacement Bus (old)												
SAU	Fiscal Year	Request Type	Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)	Bus Type	Capacity	Model Year	Mileage (as of 6/30)	Bus Type	Capacity	SAU Cost Estimate	Request Status	
RSU 24	2017	Replacement	4UZAAXCS23CK32413	C	78	2003	163410	C	78	\$88,000.00	Applied - Round 1	<a href="#">Details</a>
RSU 24	2017	Replacement	1HVBBAPB91H395635	C	72	2001	141004	C	78	\$88,000.00	Applied - Round 1	<a href="#">Details</a>
RSU 24	2017	Addition	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	78	\$88,000.00	Approved	<a href="#">Details</a>
Totals	3									\$264,000.00	\$0.00	

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

◀ Previous Next ▶

**A**

**B**

# How Are Bus Approval Decisions Made?

## – First (1<sup>st</sup>) Priority

- “Bus Replacement”
  - Emergency situation
    - An emergency situation occurs when a bus is damaged beyond economic repair due to:
      - accidents
      - fire
      - vandalism or
      - other [total] losses

# How Are Bus Approval Decisions Made?

## – Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Priority

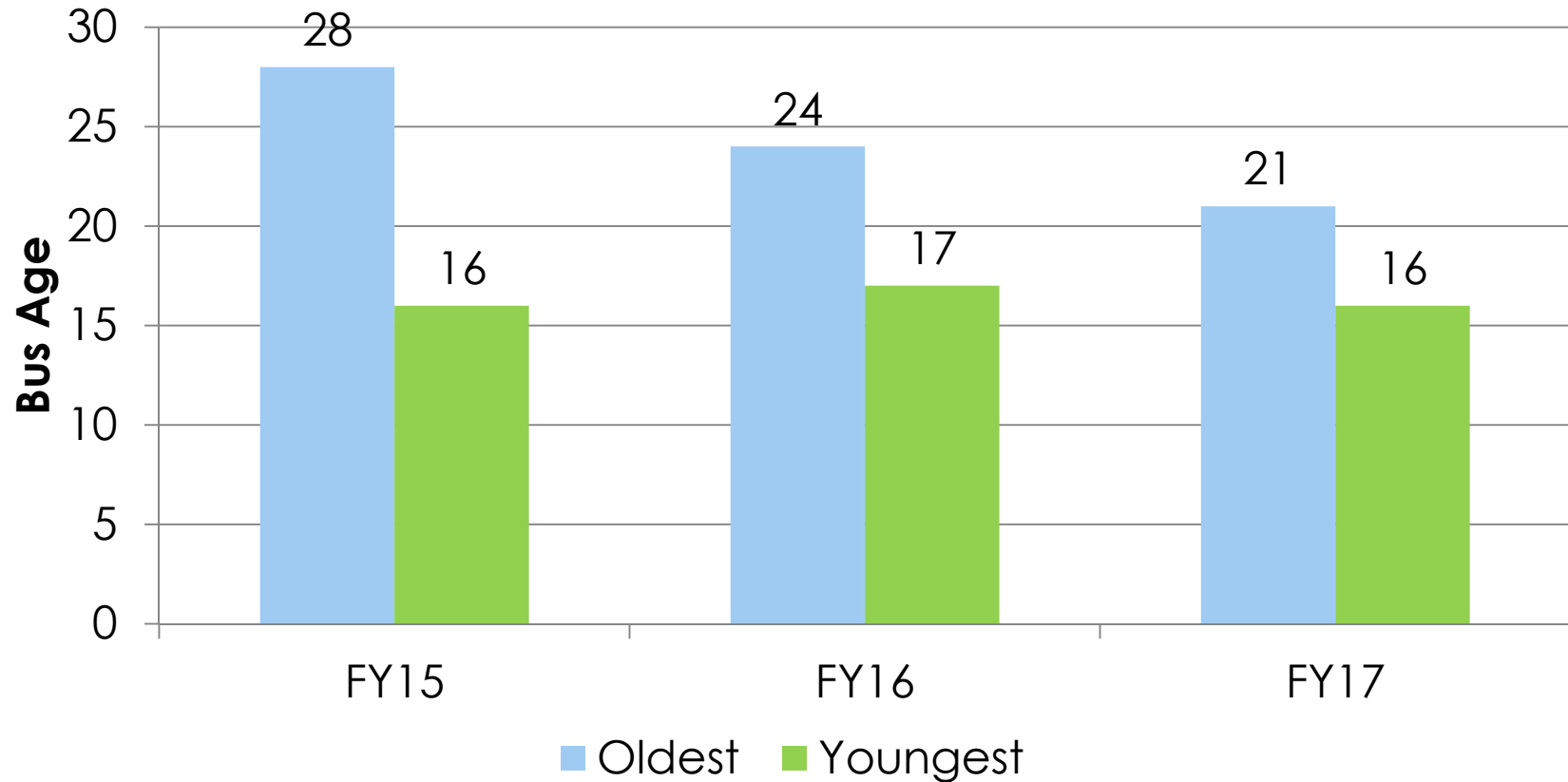
- “Addition to Fleet”
  - Unique situation
    - An “addition to fleet” situation occurs when a district needs buses to:
      - Transport handicapped students
      - Transport for a special purpose
      - Transport increased enrollment students
      - Replace contracted services (emergency)
      - Replace contracted services (planned)

# How Are Bus Approval Decisions Made?

## – Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Priority

- “Bus Replacement”
  - Age of the retiring bus
    - “Age as the primary consideration, tempered by both high and low mileage”

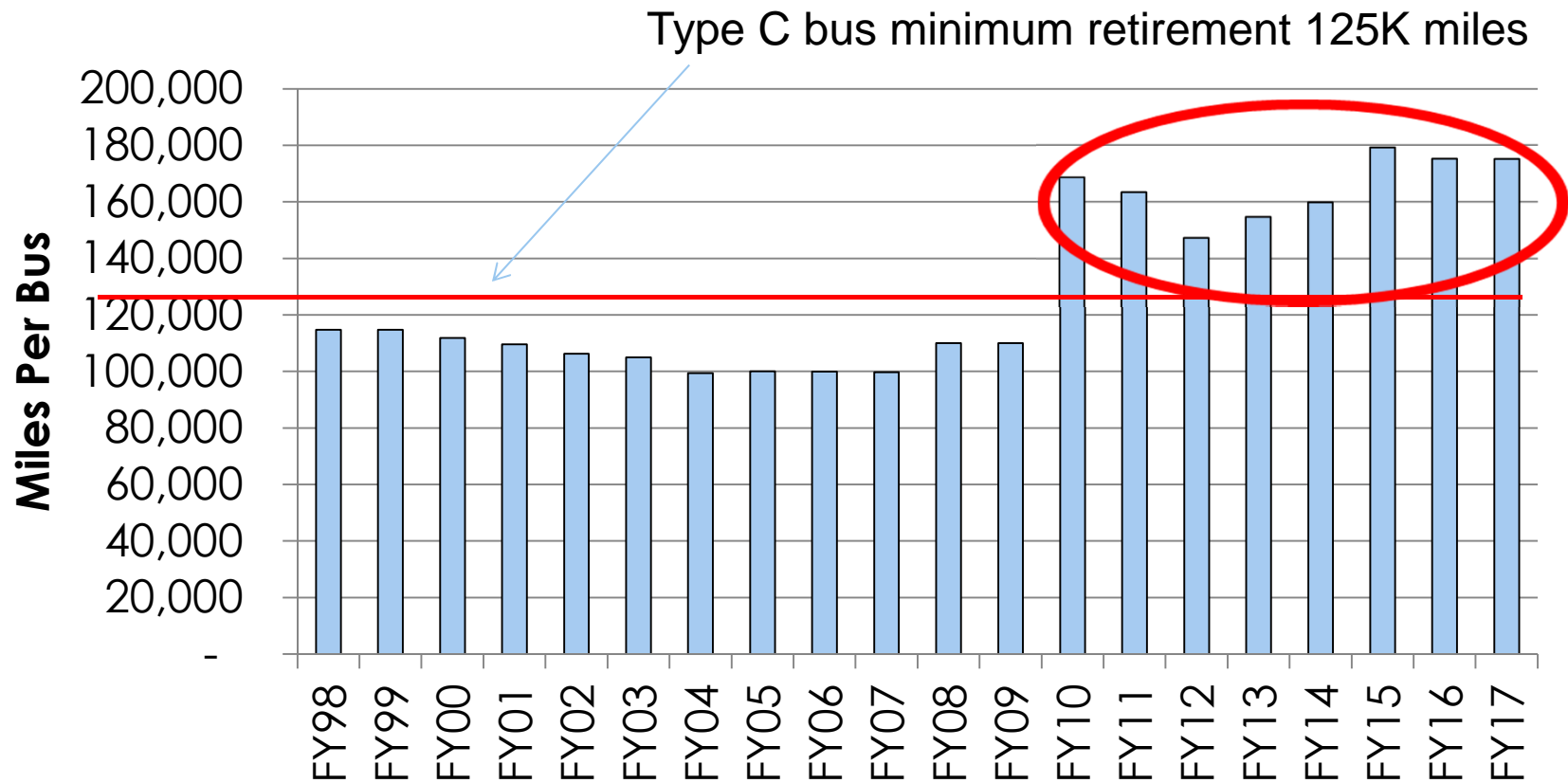
# Program Data – Age Range of Approved Buses\*



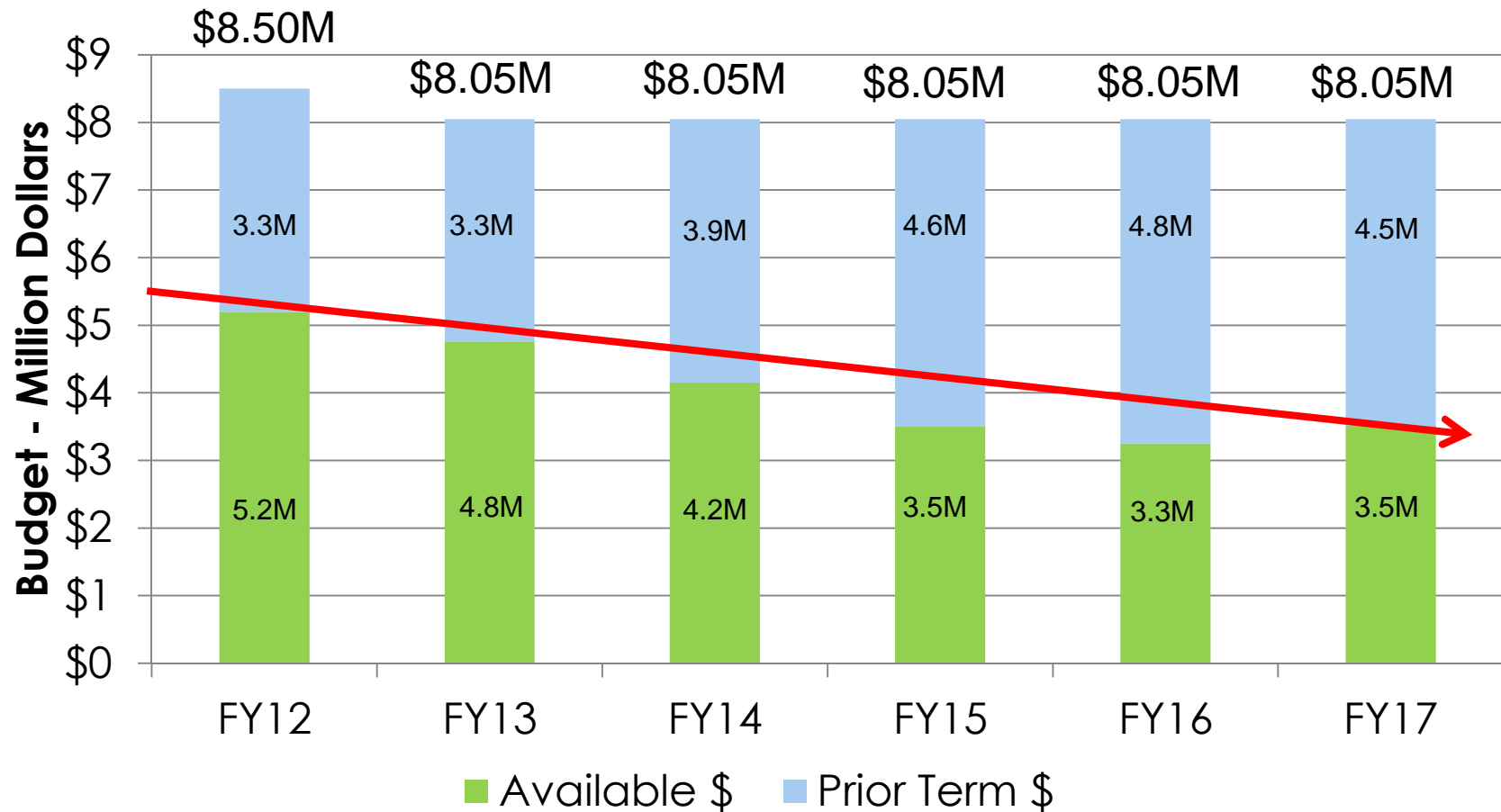
\* Round 1; excludes unique and emergency requests

# Program Data

## – Average Miles When School Bus Is Retired



# Program Data – Budget



# Program Application Rounds

- Round 1
  - Occurs annually
  - Applications opens Nov. 1 and closes Nov. 25
  - Approvals announced Dec. 30 to Jan. 15
- Round 2
  - Depends on cancellations, may **or** may **not** occur
  - Opens after Round 1 approval announcement
    - All applications that did not make Round 1 approval are automatically moved to Round 2
  - No specific approval date (March to Oct.)



# Program Subsidy Reminder

- Subsidy Amount
  - ED 279 report, section 3 A, other allocations
  - Contact Maine DOE school finance
- Delayed district reports effect subsidy (ED 279)
  - Bus **cancellation** report (EF-T-19)
    - Delayed cancellation reports prevent redistribution of bus money to other districts
  - Bus **purchase** report (EF-T-20)
    - Delayed reports lead to withheld subsidy
- Timely transportation reports are important

## Program Subsidy Reminder (cont.)

- Statutory Authority
  - “Authority to withhold state subsidy until reports are received. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, if a school administrative unit has failed to file the reports by this Title in the format and within the time periods specified, the Commissioner may withhold state subsidy payments until these reports are received.”

# The Future of School Transportation



Thank you for your interest in school transportation and your commitment to safety and security.

# Contact Information

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# Abstract

Safety is priority one when transporting students. This clinic will focus on the Maine School Bus Purchase Program that is designed to help school districts replace the aging fleet. Participants will learn the program purpose, qualifications, and process while exploring how buses are put on the list and how decisions are made. This clinic will include historic data on program funding, applications, and approvals.