



Interdistrict School Choice Program Presentation

November 2, 2016

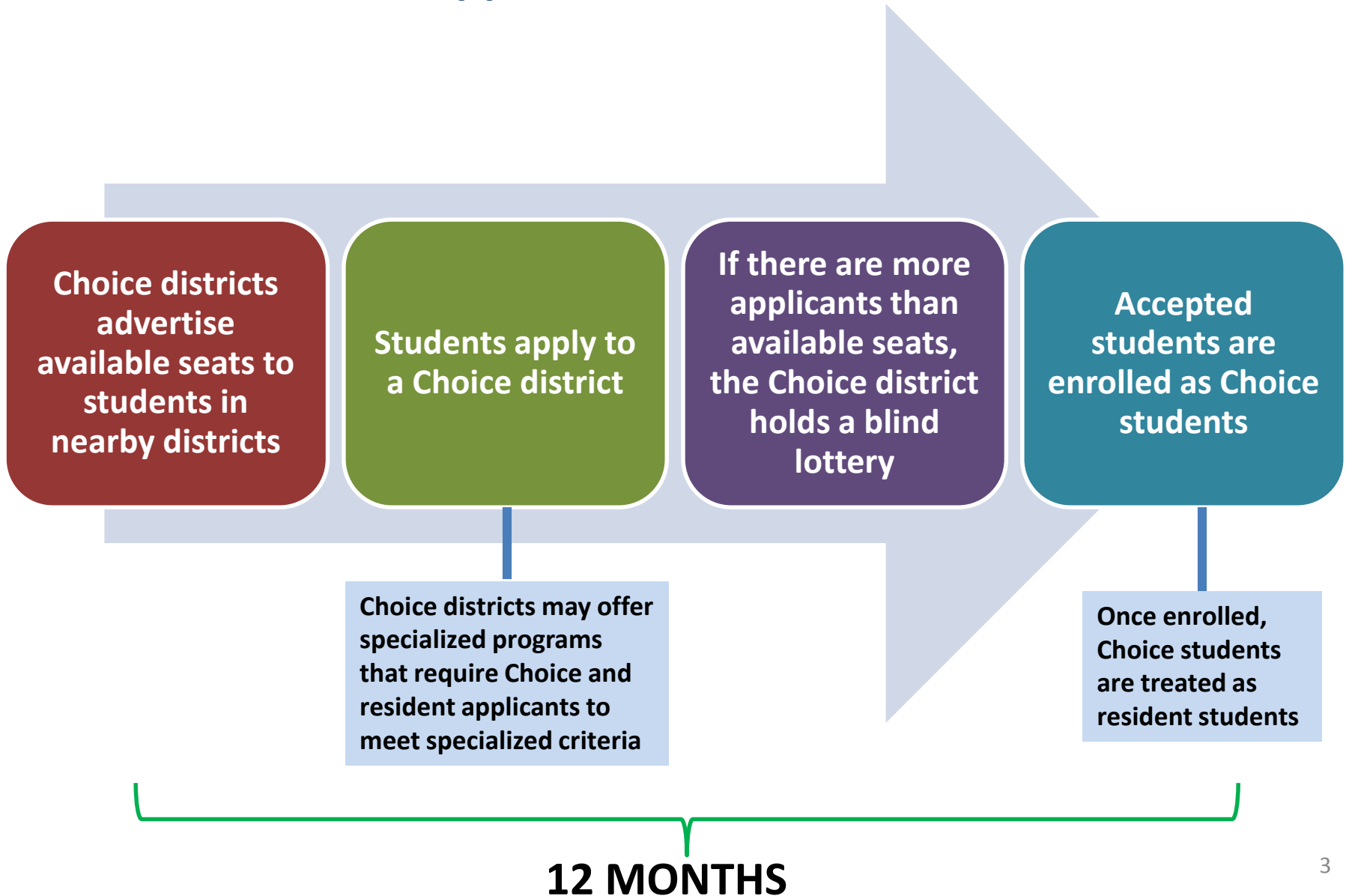


Mission of Choice Program

The Interdistrict Public School Choice Program (Choice) increases educational opportunities for students and their families by providing students with school options outside of their district of residence and giving parents the power to select a school program that best serves their child's individual needs.



Student Application & Enrollment Process





Choice Parent Survey Results

- 96% of parents who responded to our survey stated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their students' Choice district.
- The most important reasons parents cited for their students attending a Choice district were:
 - Higher school performance (#1)
 - More rigorous or diverse academic programs (#2)
 - Better climate and culture (#3)



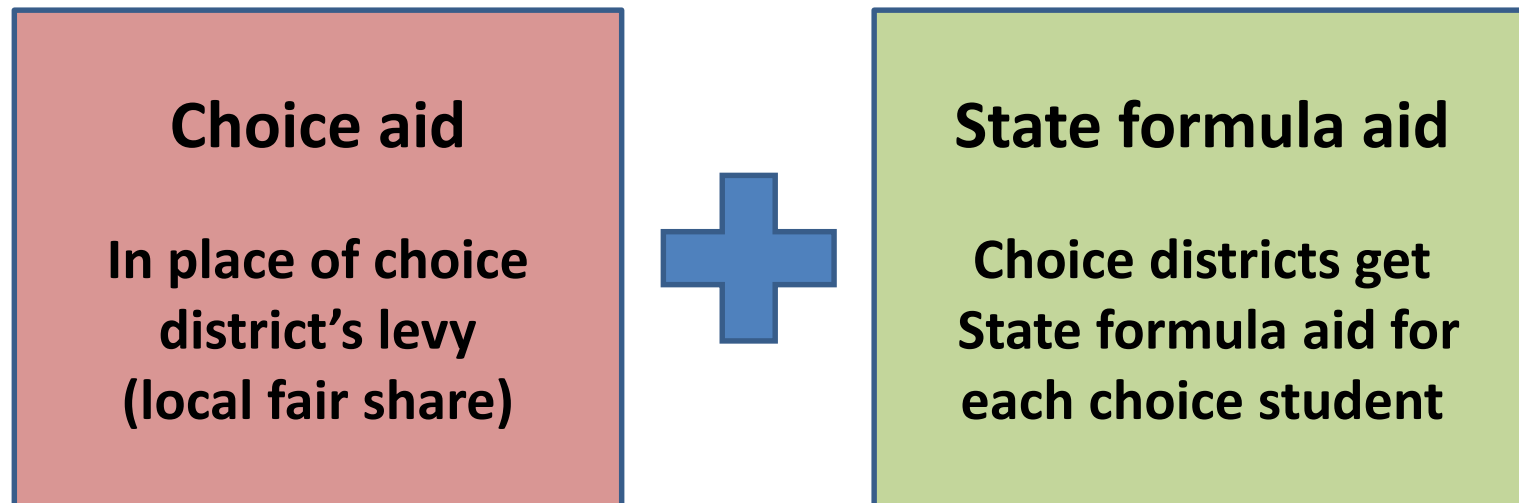
Choice District Survey Results

- 89% of districts stated they were either somewhat or very satisfied with the Choice program.
- Between 80%-85% of Choice districts stated that the Choice program met their goals:

Possible Goals/Reasons to Participate	This is a goal	Met goal % (including 'not at expected level' and 'surpassed')
The Choice program provides an important source of revenue for the district.	87%	85%
The district's student population has increased due to the Choice program.	80%	80%
The district has increased the diversity of its student population due to the Choice program.	61%	81%
The district has been able to sustain a specialized program due to the Choice program.	27%	80%



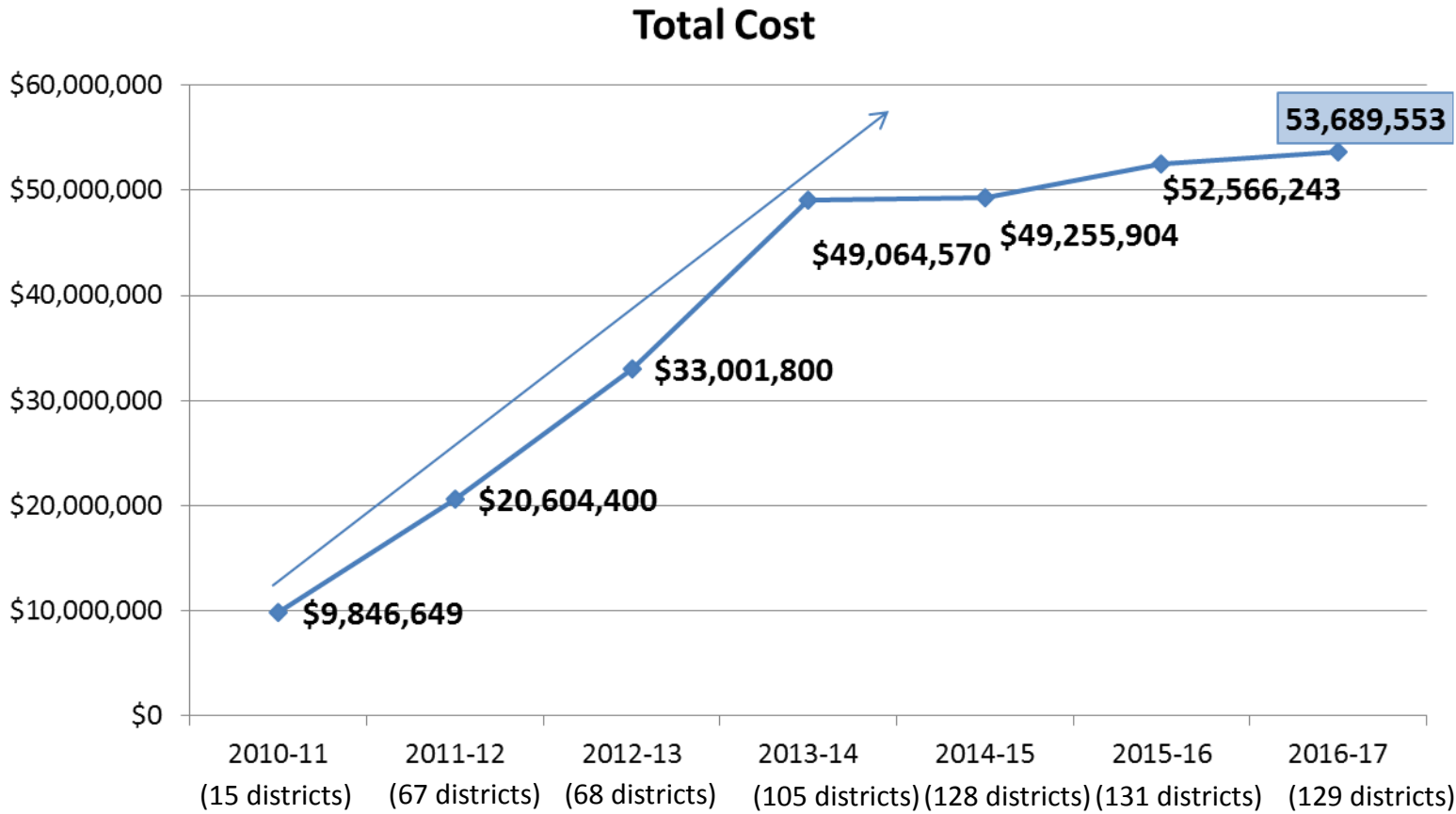
- The State pays Choice aid for each Choice student who enrolls. Choice aid is provided so the choice district does not have to raise school tax levy for the additional student.
- The student is also counted in the calculation of State formula aid for the Choice district (not the sending district).
 - Except Transportation aid stays with the sending district, which continues to provide transportation.





Program Growth 2011-2017 - Dollars

- The Choice program was projected to grow by 50%+ annually until enrollment limits were imposed on FY2015 enrollments.

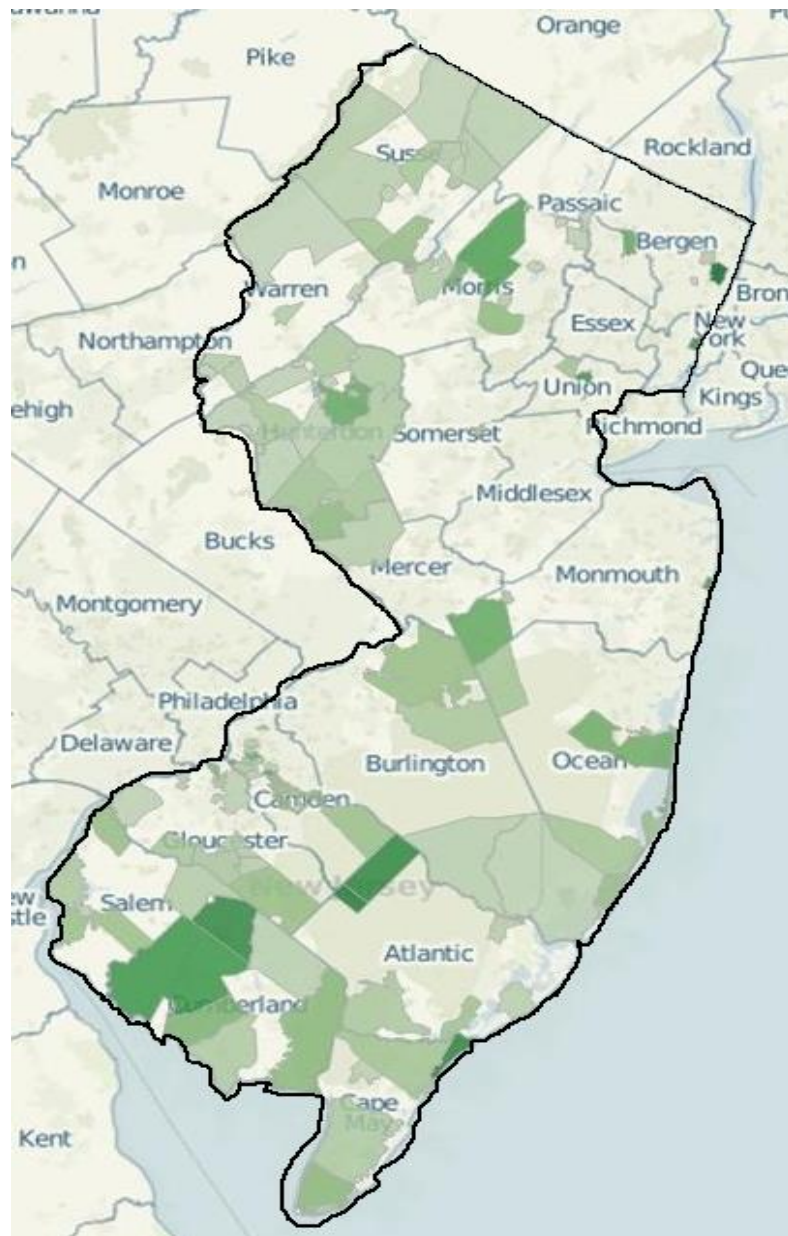


*FY2015 and FY2016 are net adjustments of \$4.6 million (457 seats) and \$1.9 million (194 seats), respectively, as a result of adjustments due to overprojections in each of the prior years. (FY2017 cost of \$53.7 m is net adjustment of \$1.1 m.)



Choice districts tend to be in areas with lower population density and to have experienced enrollment declines.

County	Number of choice districts	FY16 Choice Enrolled	FY16 Choice Aid
HUNTERDON	20	410	\$4,787,887
CAMDEN	18	758	\$5,605,235
SUSSEX	13	272	\$2,734,855
MORRIS	10	376	\$4,507,906
CAPE MAY	9	428	\$5,505,212
GLOUCESTER	9	242	\$1,734,078
OCEAN	9	280	\$3,243,681
TOTAL	129	5,235	\$53,690,000





The districts sending the most students to Choice districts include urban districts with large percentages of economically disadvantaged students..

Sending County	Sending District	# Choice Students Sent	% of Total Choice Enrollment	% Low Income (FRPL*)
CAMDEN	WINSLOW TWP	493	10%	56%
HUDSON	JERSEY CITY	149	3%	76%
MORRIS	DOVER	118	2%	76%
CAMDEN	CAMDEN	109	2%	81%
MERCER	TRENTON	109	2%	89%
CUMBERLAND	VINELAND	108	2%	68%
PASSAIC	PATERSON	105	2%	75%
SUBTOTAL			23%	

*FRPL= Free and Reduced Priced Lunch eligible; NJ state average is 37%

