



**GENERAL  
TEAMSTERS  
LOCAL 959  
STATE OF ALASKA**

*Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer

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March 29, 2017

Hello Madam Chair and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Jeremy Holan and I am a Business Representative at Teamsters Local 959 and I am the Teamster Director of Student Transportation, assisting with school bus contracts in Anchorage, Wasilla, Kenai, Healy and Fairbanks; I am also a father of two children that ride the school bus in Fairbanks.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

I would like to address a couple of concerns Teamsters Local 959 has with SB96:

1. Only requiring one state inspection a year, and,
2. Removing the double minimum wage for school bus drivers.

The first item I would like to address is found in Section 6(b)(2), page 3—only requiring one state inspection a year will increase the risk of the students, bus drivers and public and will potentially increase the amount of late buses due to break downs. The Department of Transportation (DOT) cannot inspect buses when the buses are transporting students or if the bus is working a fire charter. You can find the DOT restrictions in 49 CFR 390.3 (f) (1) and AS 19.10.399 (d) (1) (3). That said DOT can get involved under the following criteria (found in 49 CFR 390.5 Definitions) if there is an accident involving:

1. Fatality;
2. Bodily injury;
3. One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage.

Because of these limitations placed by the DOT, the only outside inspections the school buses receive are the two state inspections a year which are also scheduled up to a year in advance. The two inspections a year are all we have to ensure the school buses are operating in a safe manner to protect the children that ride in them 9 months out of the year, the employees that operate them and, the public that are on the roads with them.

Currently, the two state inspections are scheduled almost a year in advance, giving employers the opportunity to defer maintenance until just before the scheduled inspection.

Line charts provided by the Department of Education & Early Development show each of the districts percentage of buses passing inspections from the year 2004 to present. The charts reflect the changes from inspection to inspection sometimes for the better and

sometimes for the worse, why should we take a chance and wait a year to find out if the buses are being maintained at the highest level possible?

The second item I would like to address is found in section 23 on page 14 – removing the two times the minimum wage for school bus drivers could increase the amount of driver shortages we currently face in the state of Alaska. In August 2015, the starting bus driver wage was \$15.50 an hour; the Fairbanks Daily News Minor reported a shortage of 30 drivers. In March of 2016, the starting wage for bus drivers was \$19.50 and the Fairbanks Daily News Minor reported a shortage of 16 drivers in Fairbanks.

While I was researching the school bus driver shortages, I noticed there are many newspaper articles from around the country with the same driver shortage problem. There are many reasons for the driver shortages but here are a few using Alaska's bus driver information:

1. Pay—current double minimum wage for Alaska  $\$19.50 \times 6 \times 183 = 21,411$  a year.
2. Hours worked – average for Alaska is about 6 hours a day.
3. Split shift – average is 3 hours in am and 3 hours in the afternoon with about 4 hours of unpaid time in between shifts. A 10 hour day to get paid for 6 hours.
4. DOT regulations prohibit most of the drivers the opportunity to get a second job. Drivers are required 10 hours of down time between the end of their shift and start of the shift on the next working day. Drivers are also limited to 70 hours total for work each week, behind the wheel or not, and then they have to have a mandatory rest. This makes it extremely difficult for a bus driver to work a second job and remain DOT compliant.

Drivers can carry up to 84 very precious pieces of cargo and because of this they have to pass a background check, pass a CDL permit, a road test, and be able to work a very flexible schedule.

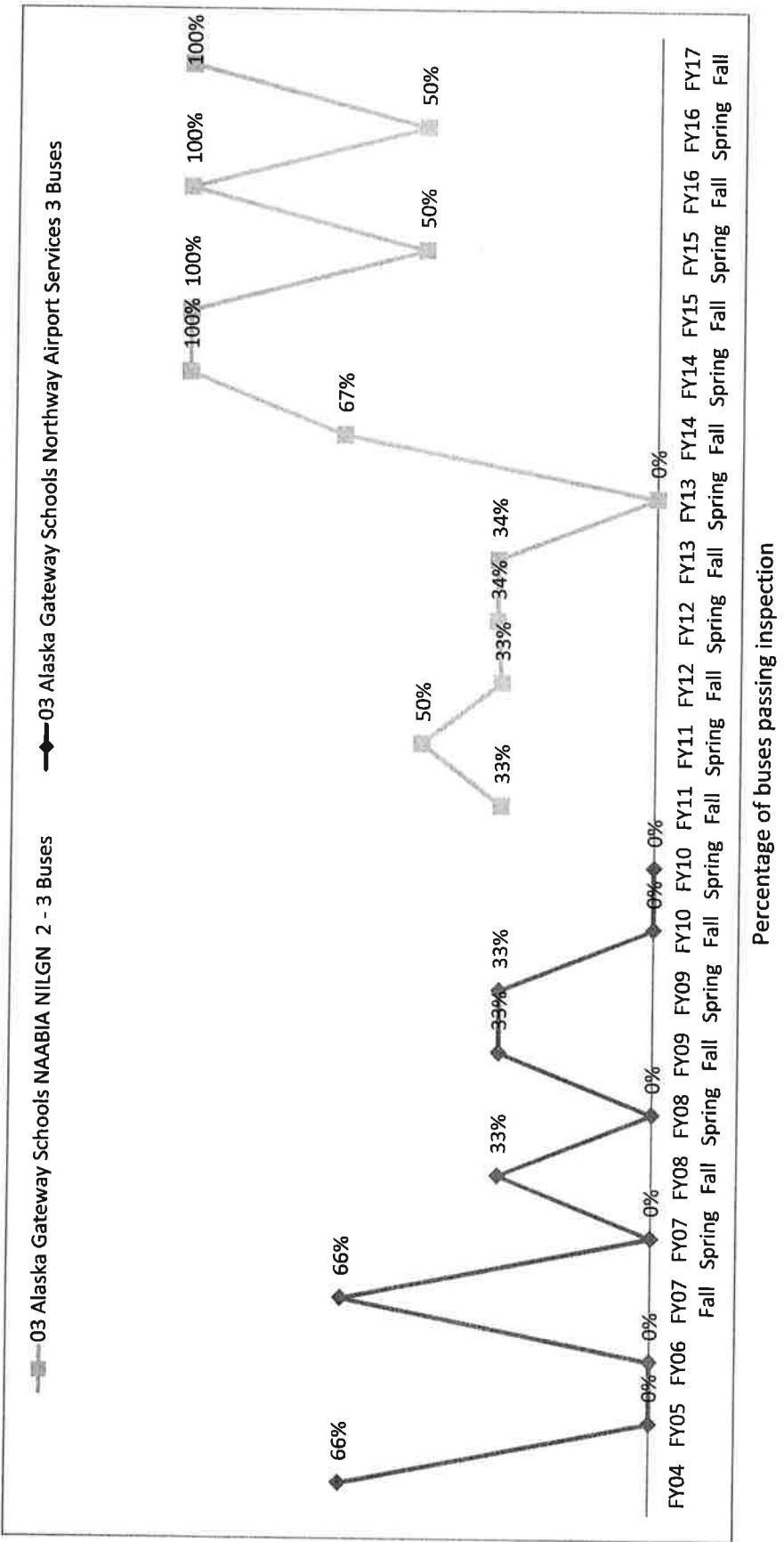
The stresses placed on these bus drivers are: safely driving a very large vehicle, while watching out for road hazards, while watching up to 84 kids to make sure they are acting in a safe manner, and make sure they don't miss a bus stop and to get them to and from school on time.

Again our concerns are by only requiring one state school bus inspection a year could put the kids, employees, and public at risk and removing the double minimum wage for school bus drivers could create a larger school bus shortage for the state of Alaska.

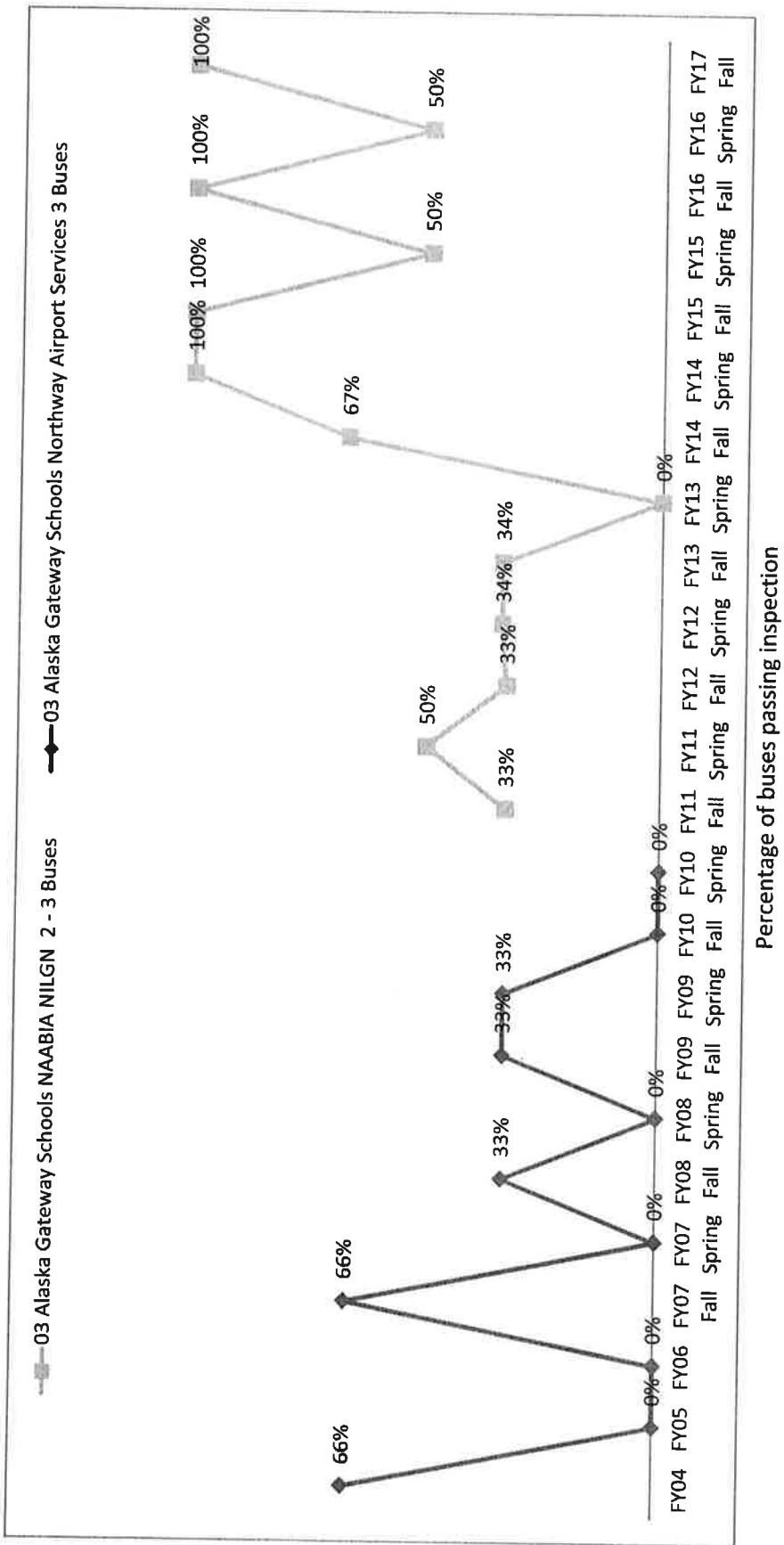
I ask that more time and discussion is spent regarding this bill before it moves forward.

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Senate Education Committee for allowing me to speak with you today

Percentage of buses passing inspection



Percentage of buses passing inspection

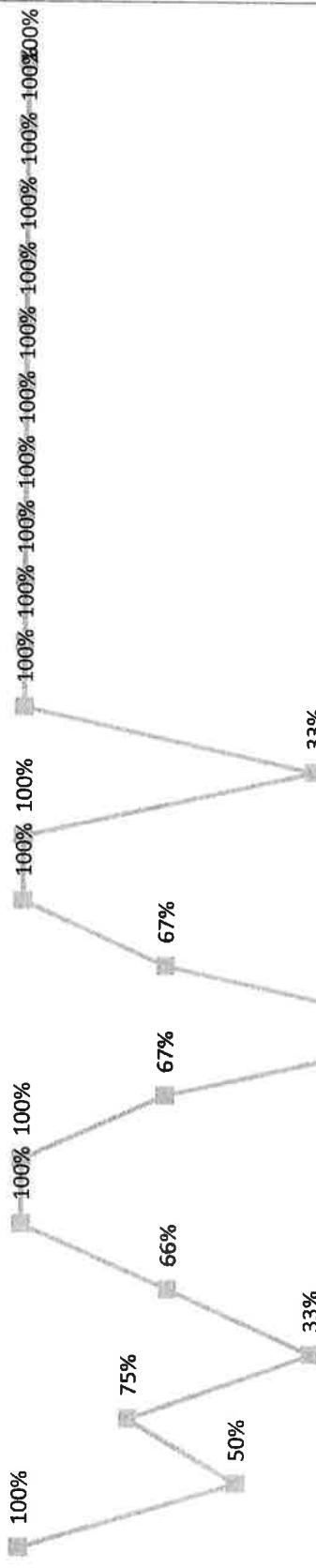


Percentage of buses passing inspection

Percentage of buses passing inspection

## 03 Alaska Gateway Schools Eagle Trading Co. 2-3 Buses

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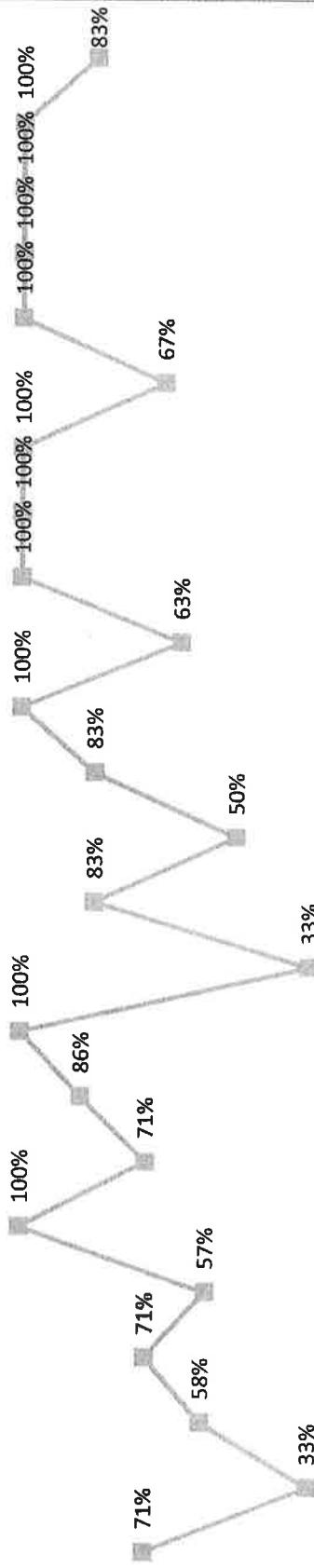
FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Fall

Percentage of buses passing inspection

Percentage of buses passing inspection

## 03 Alaska Gateway Schools Tok Transportation Services 6 Buses

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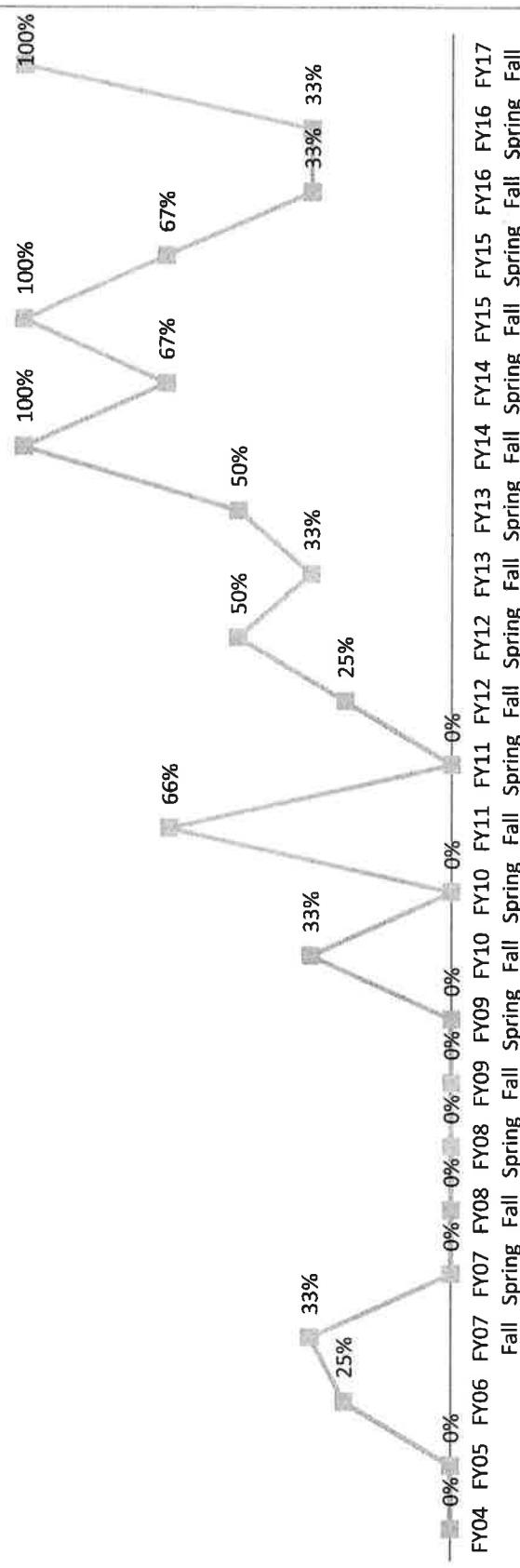
FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Spring Fall Fall

Percentage of buses passing inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 56 Aleutians East Borough Schools District 3-4 Buses

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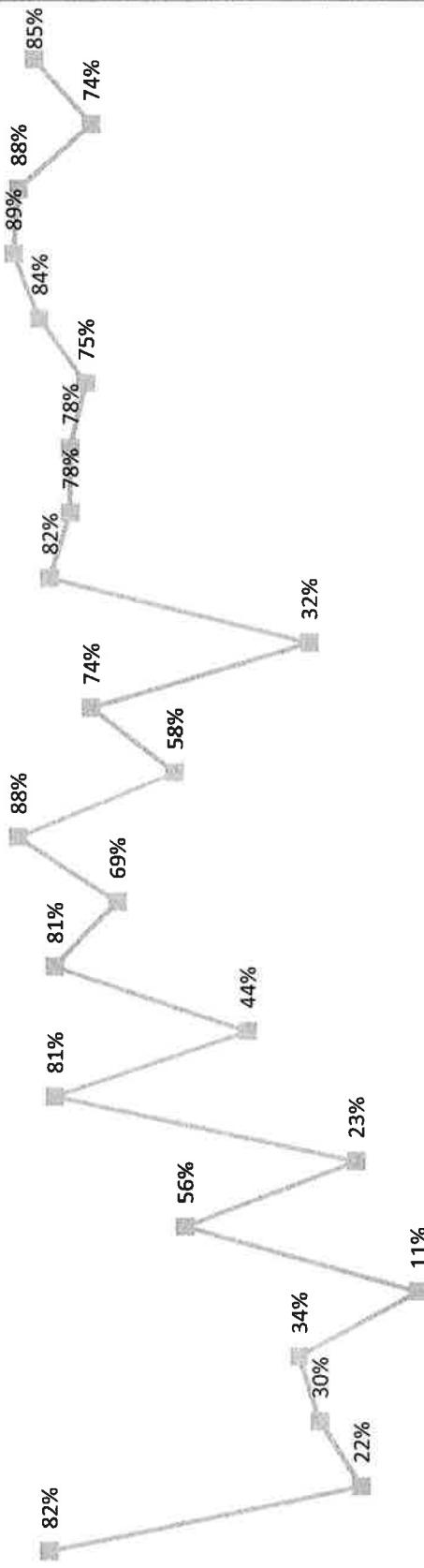


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 05 Anchorage School District District 117-124 Buses

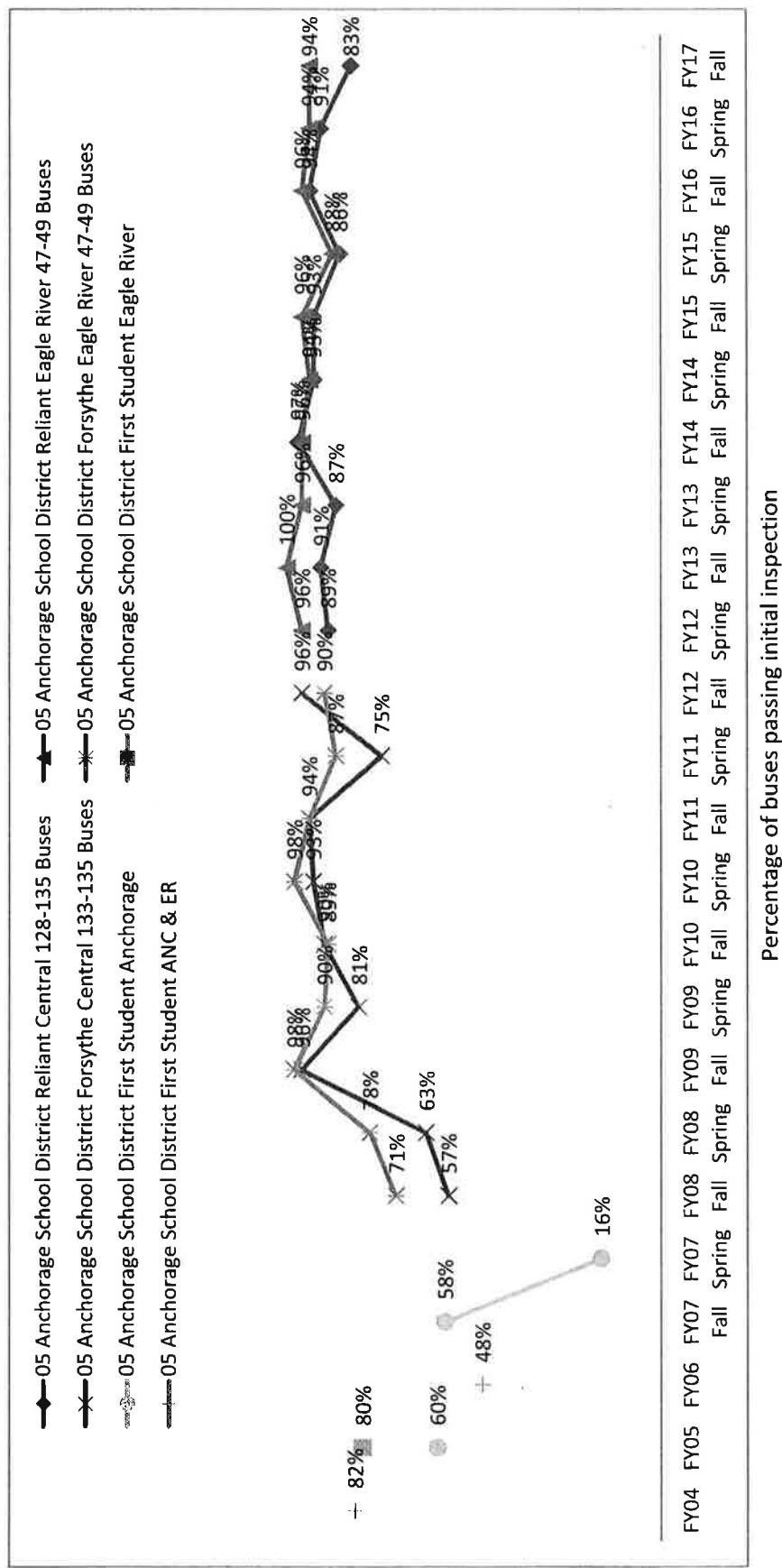
05 Anchorage School District District 117-124 Buses



FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



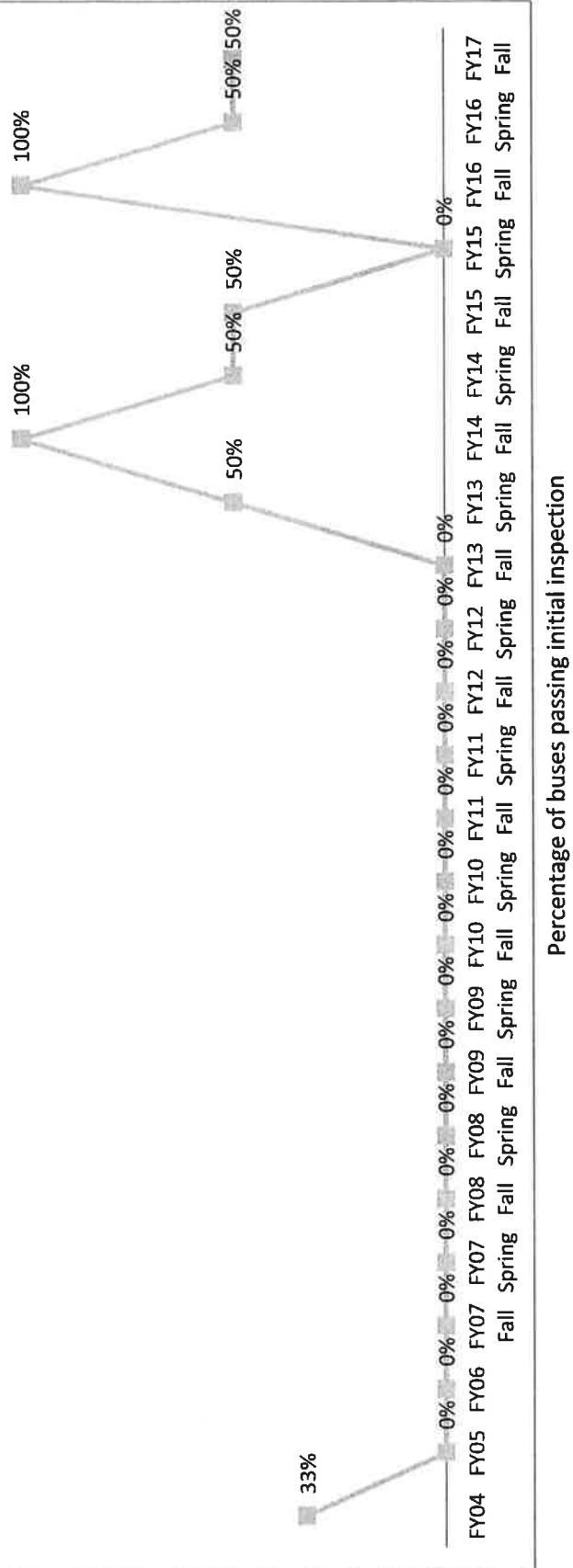
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall

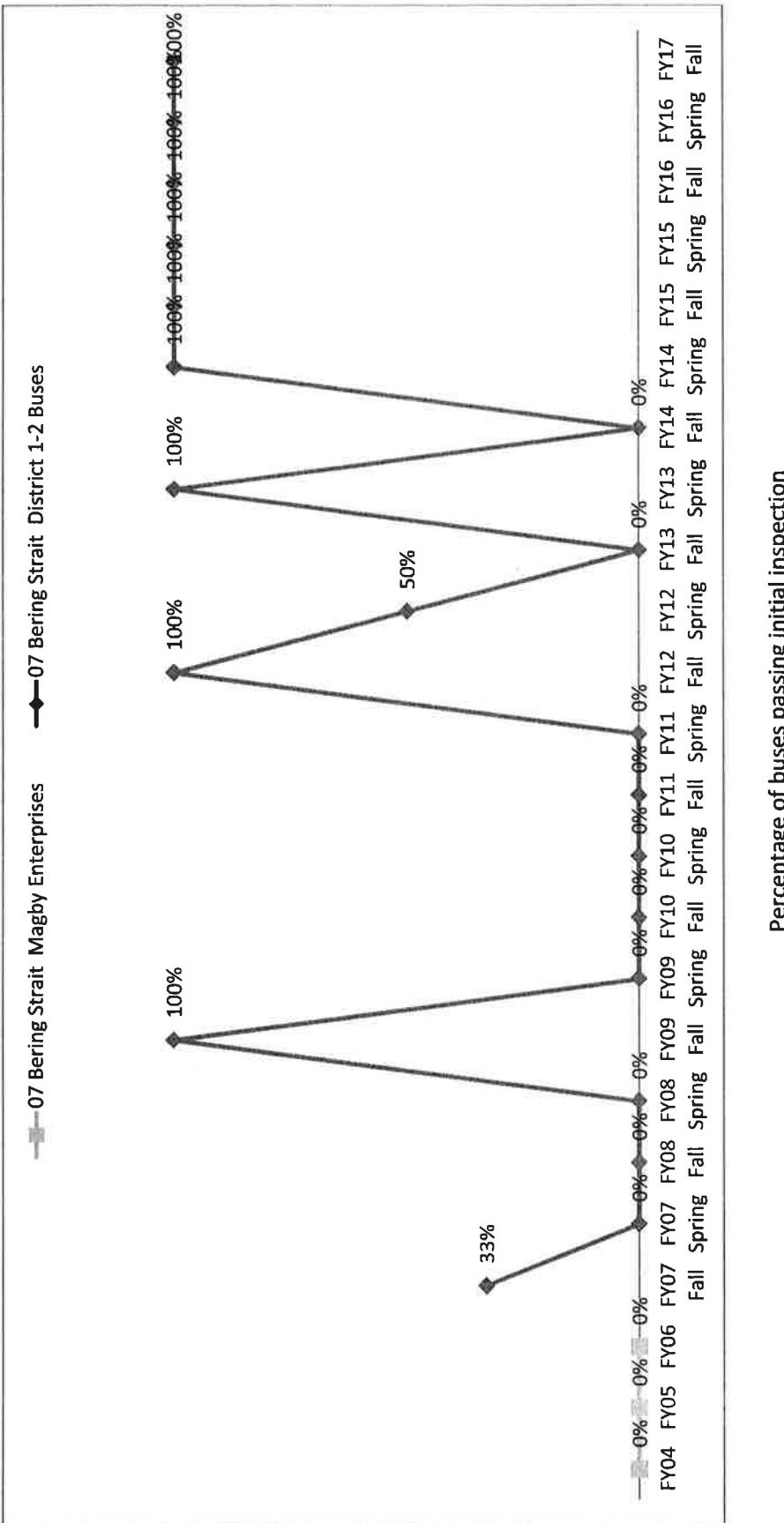
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 06 Annette Island School District Metlakatla District 2 Buses

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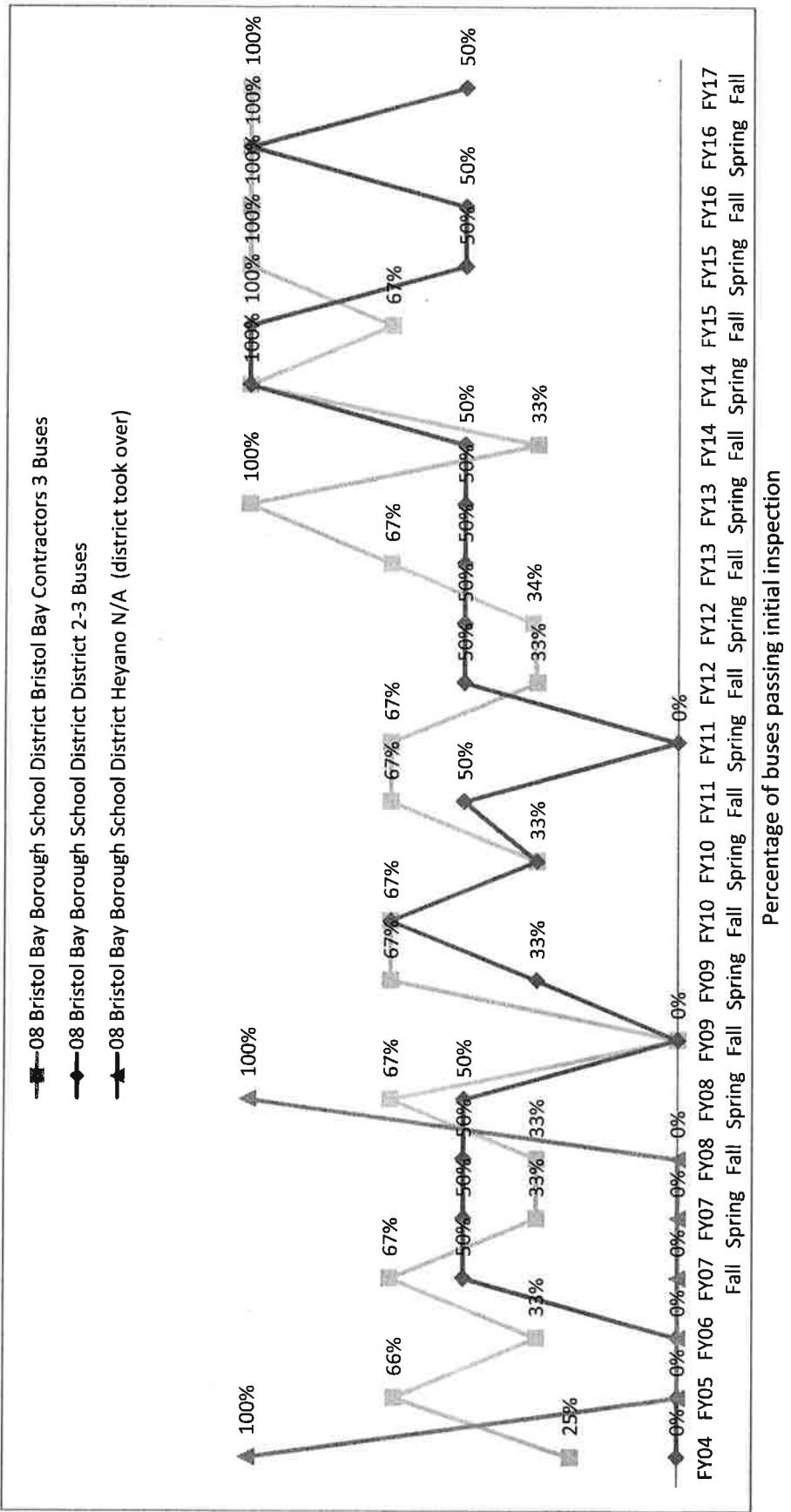


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



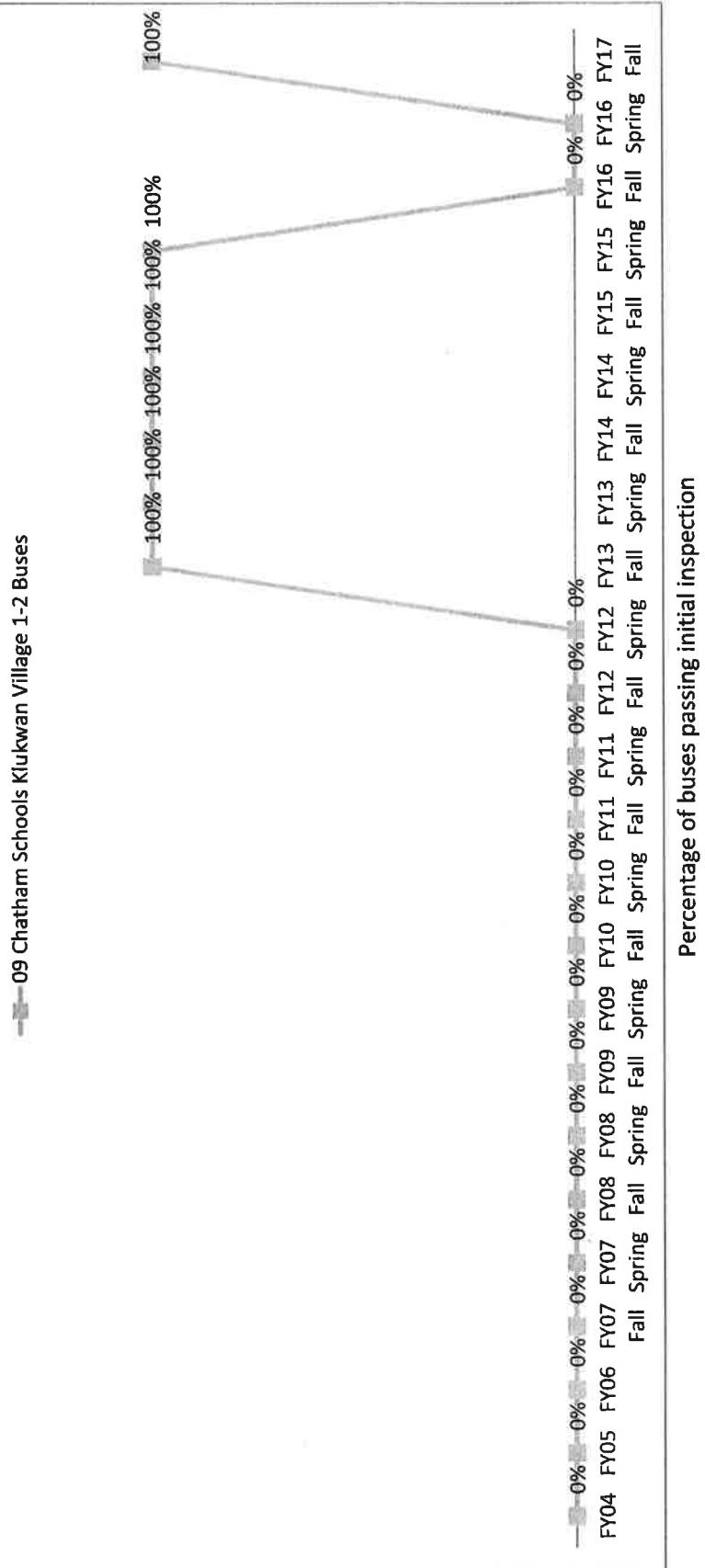
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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09 Chatham Schools Klukwan Village 1-2 Buses

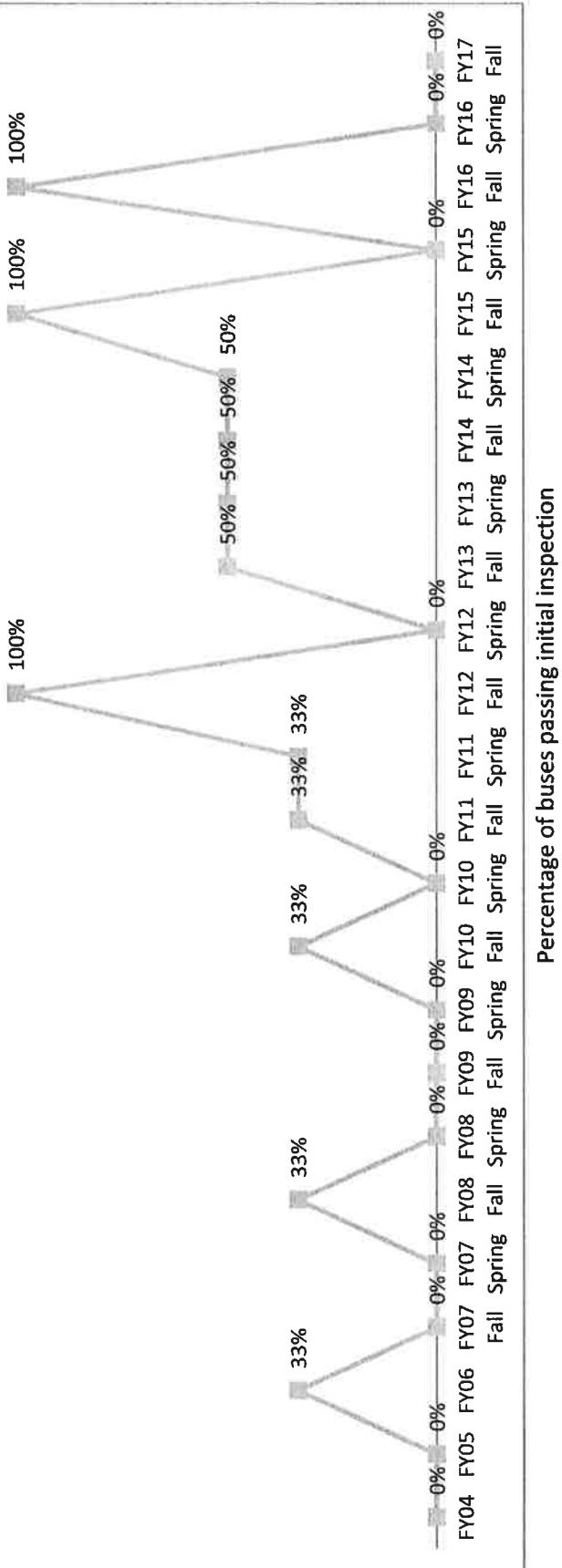
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



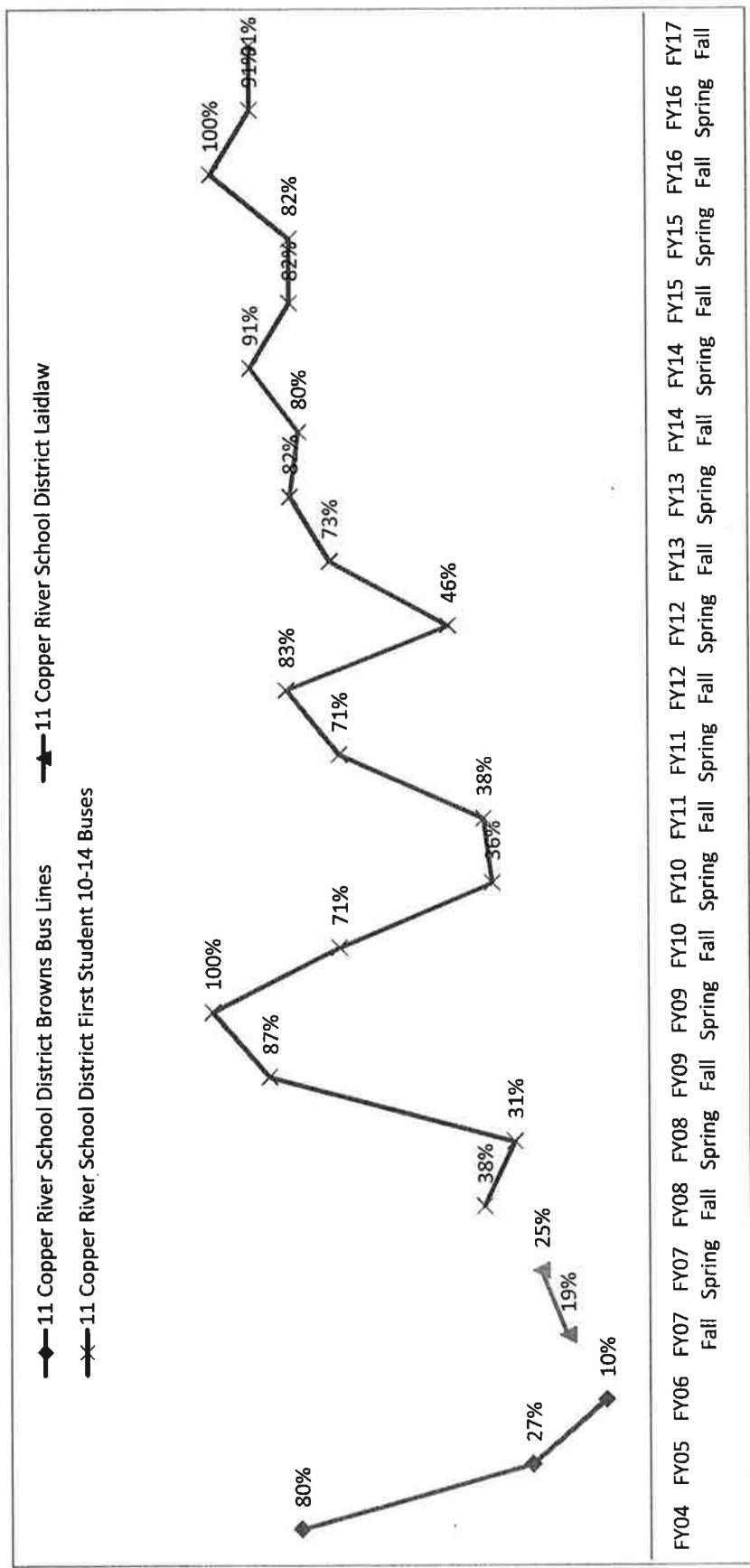
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 11 Copper River School District District 1-3 Buses

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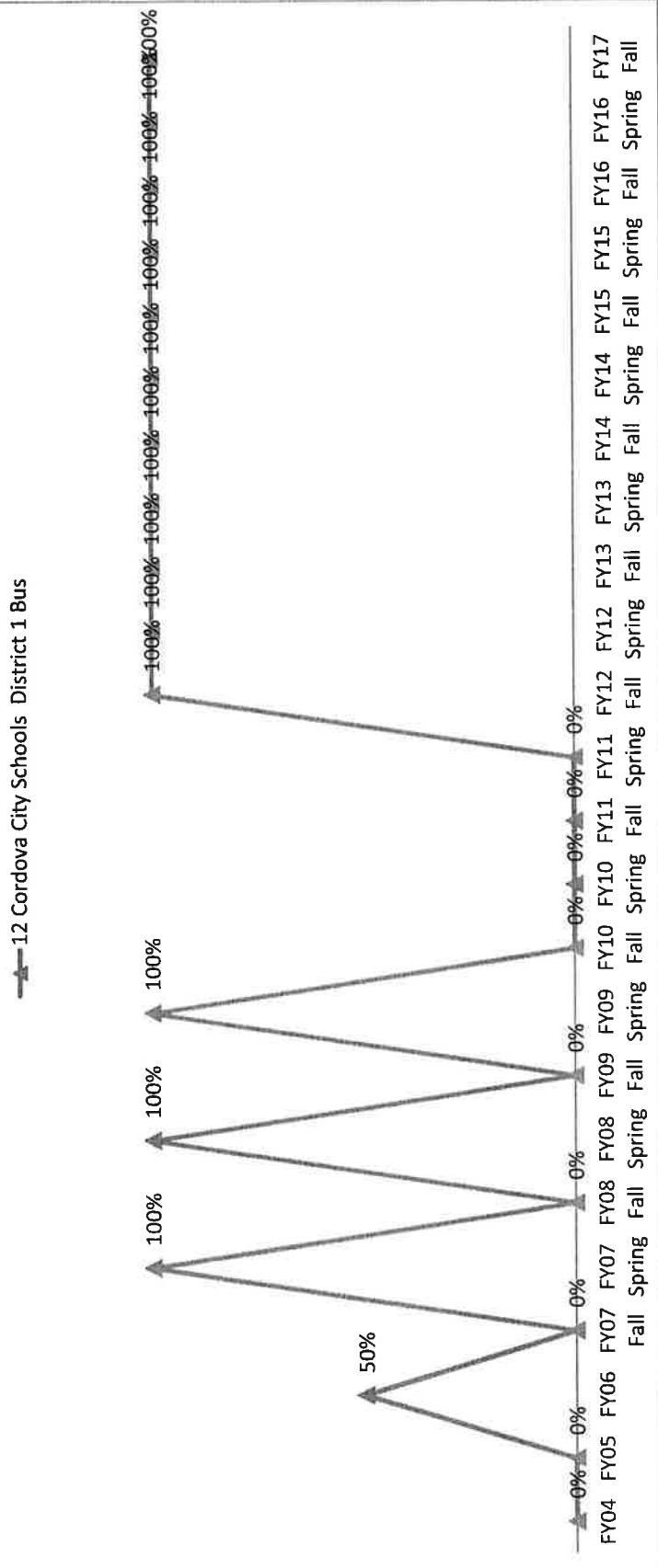
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



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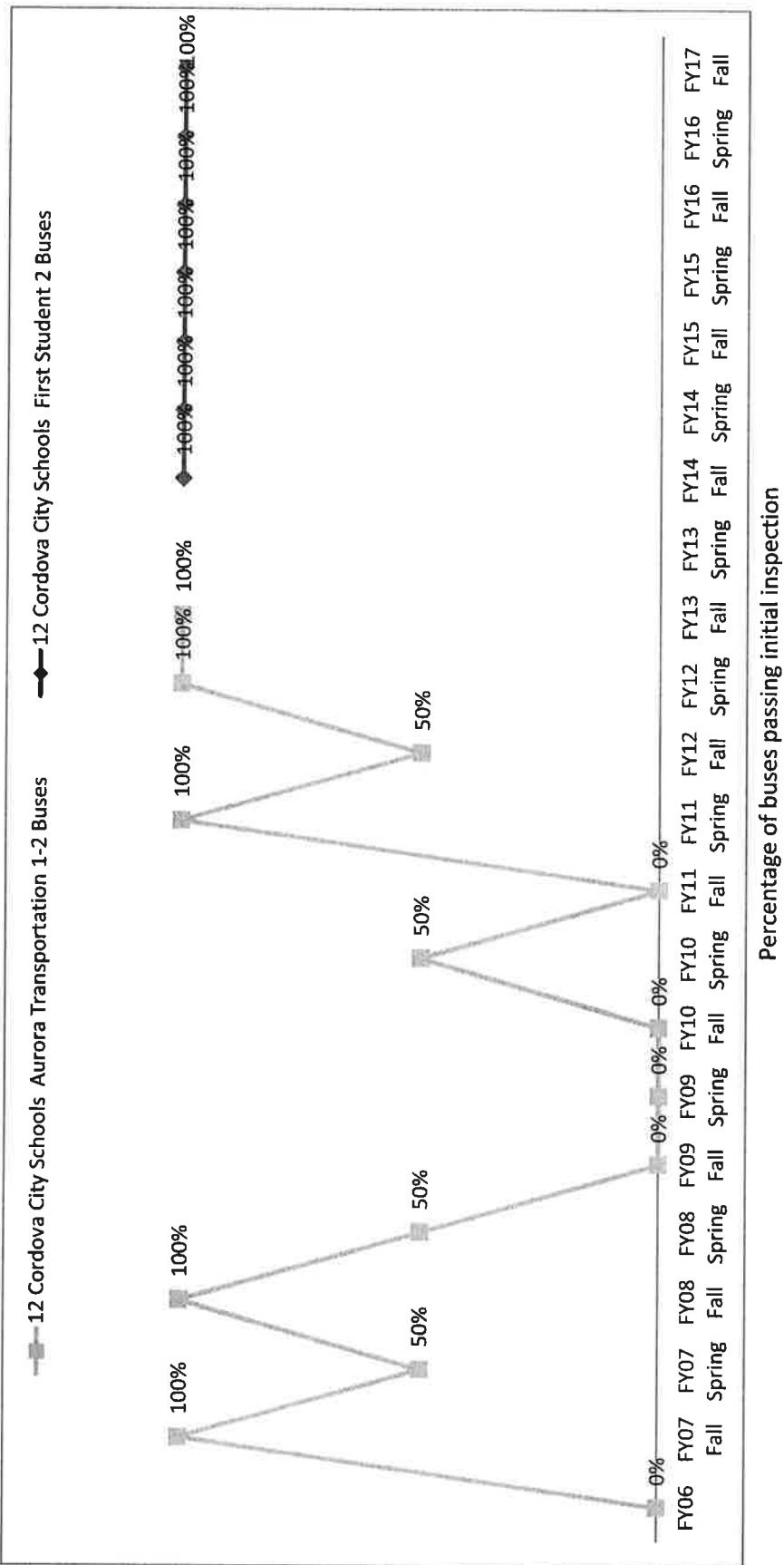
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 12 Cordova City Schools District 1 Bus



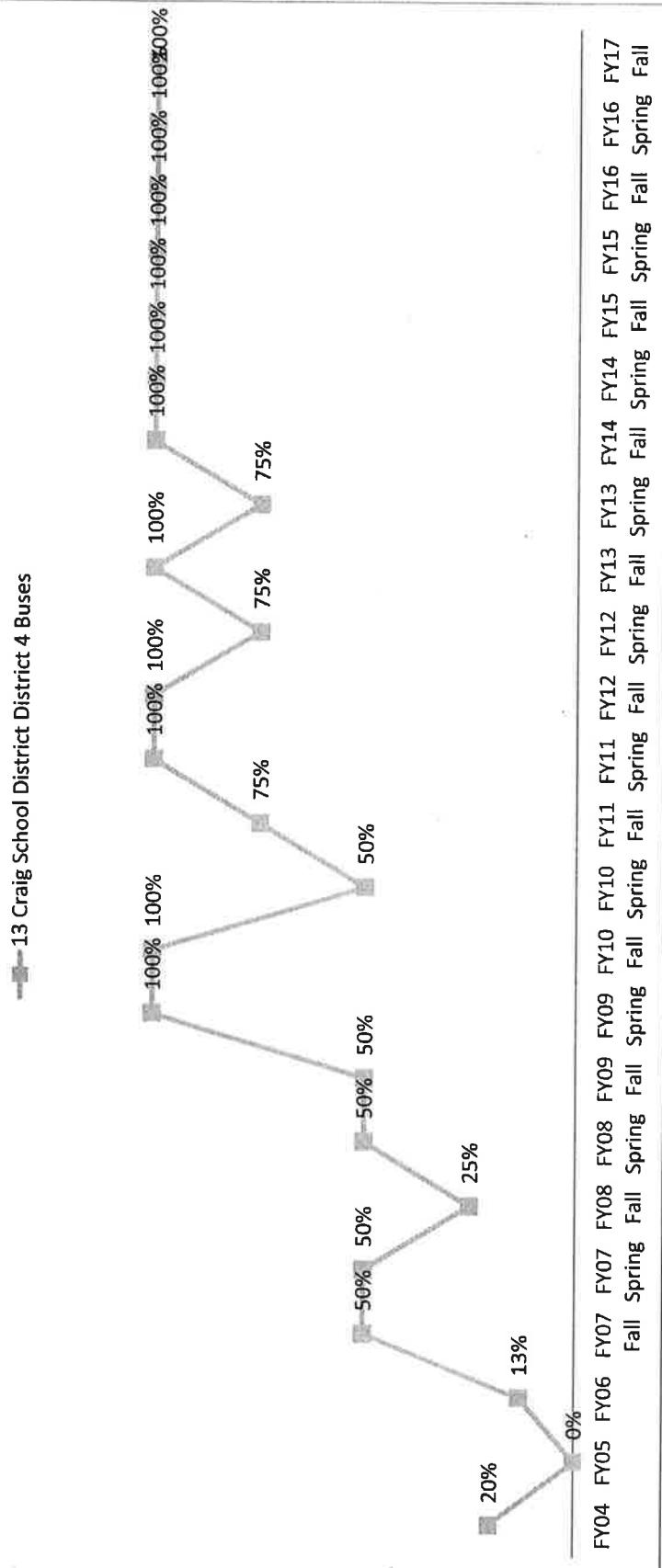
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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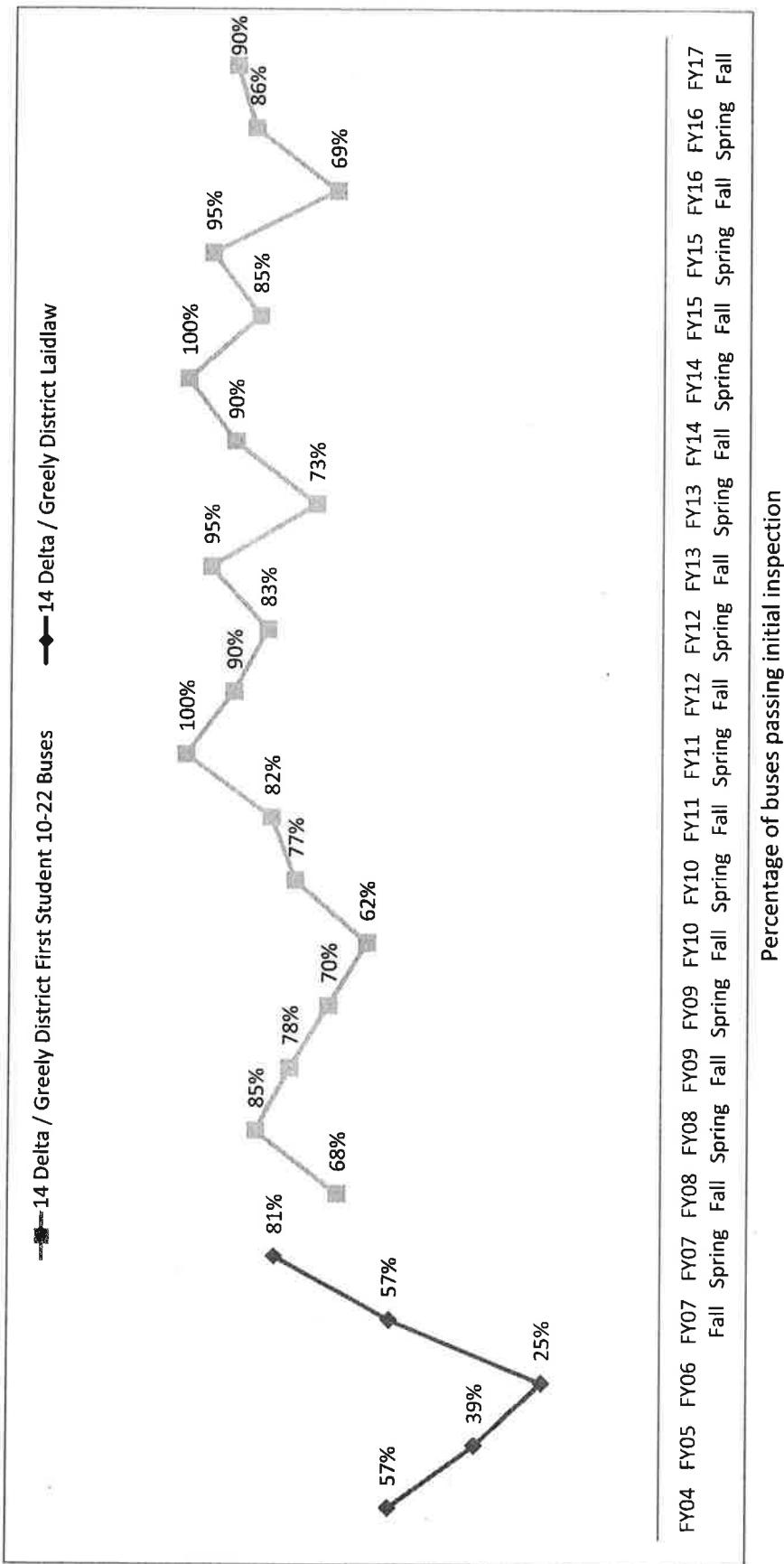


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

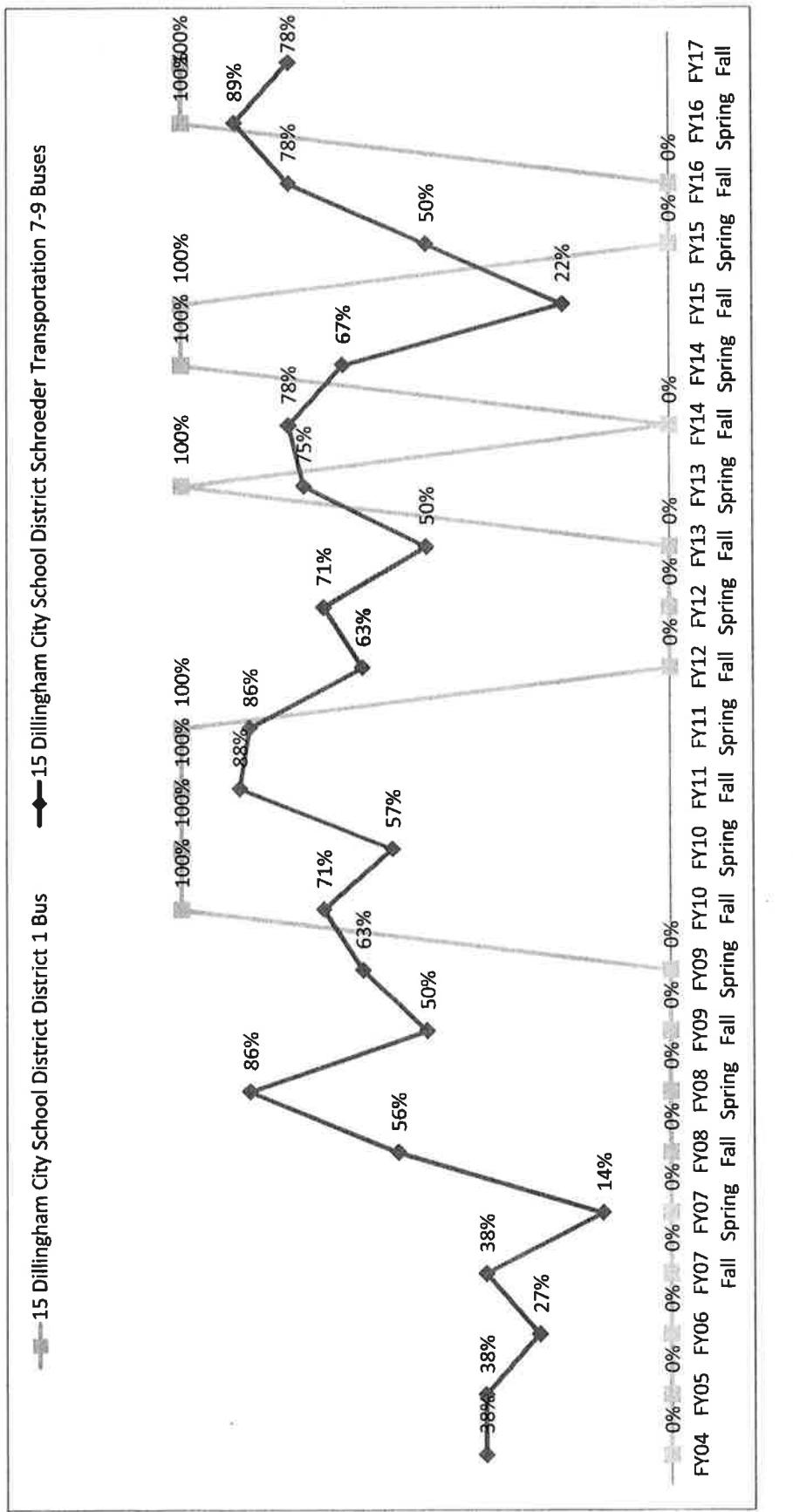
## 13 Craig School District District 4 Buses



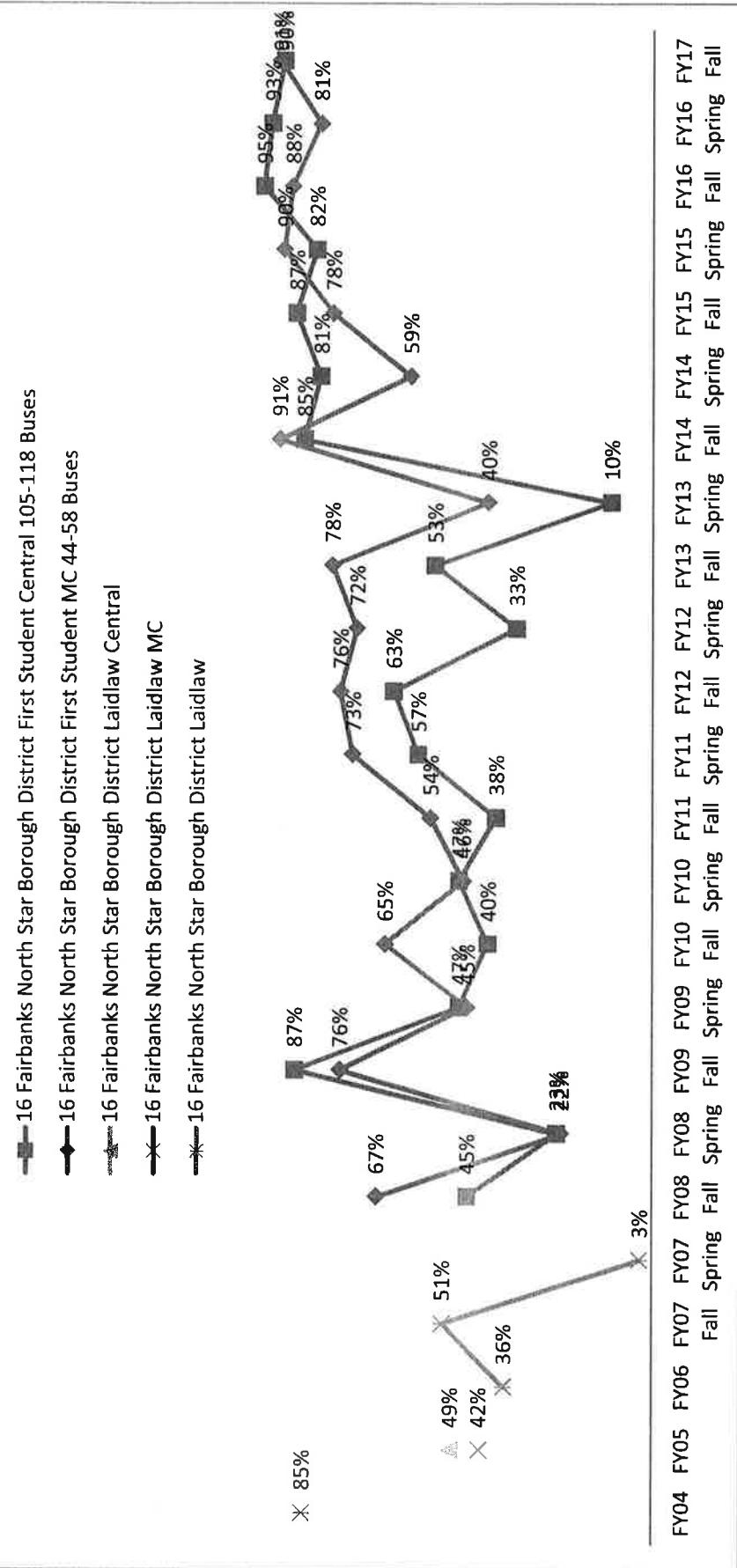
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



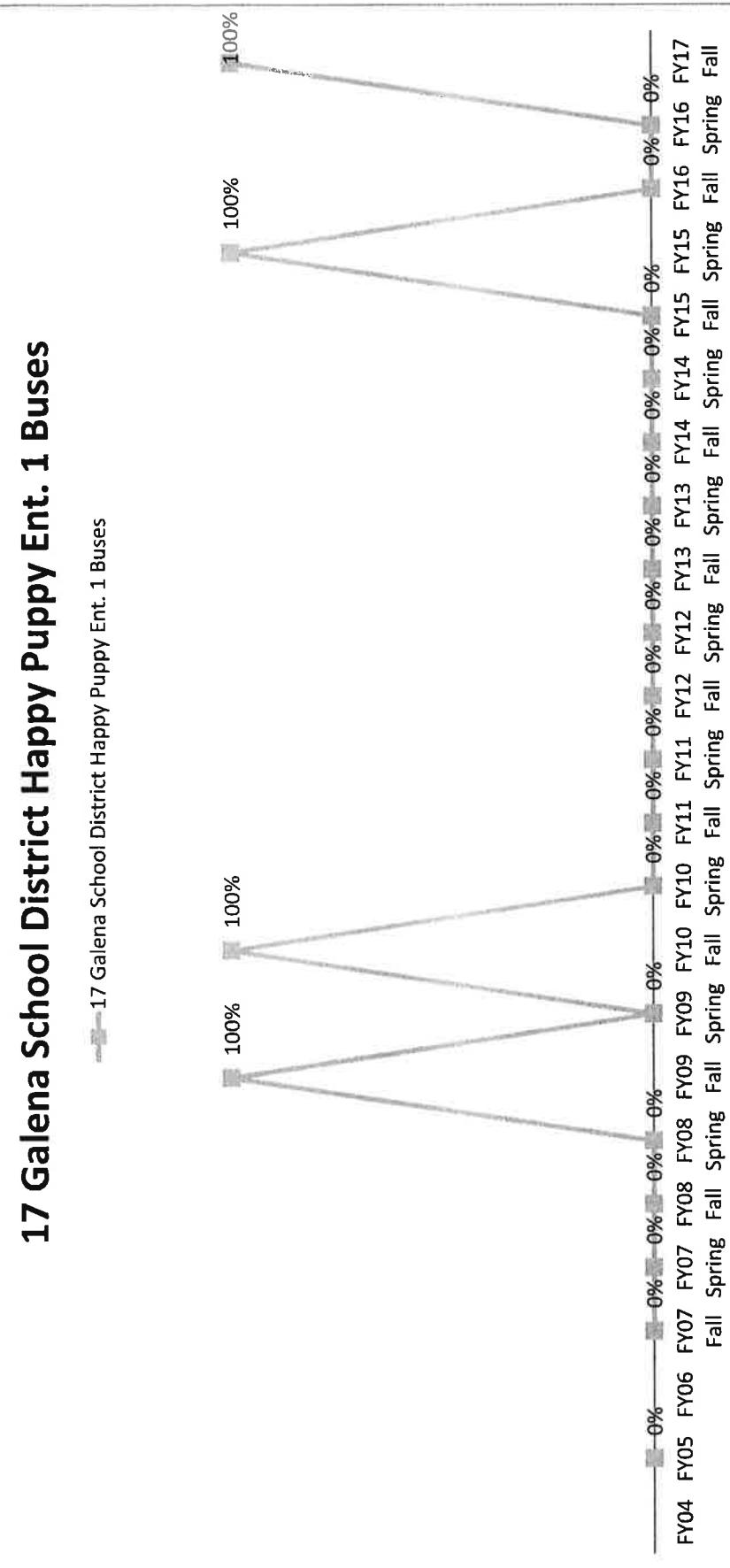
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



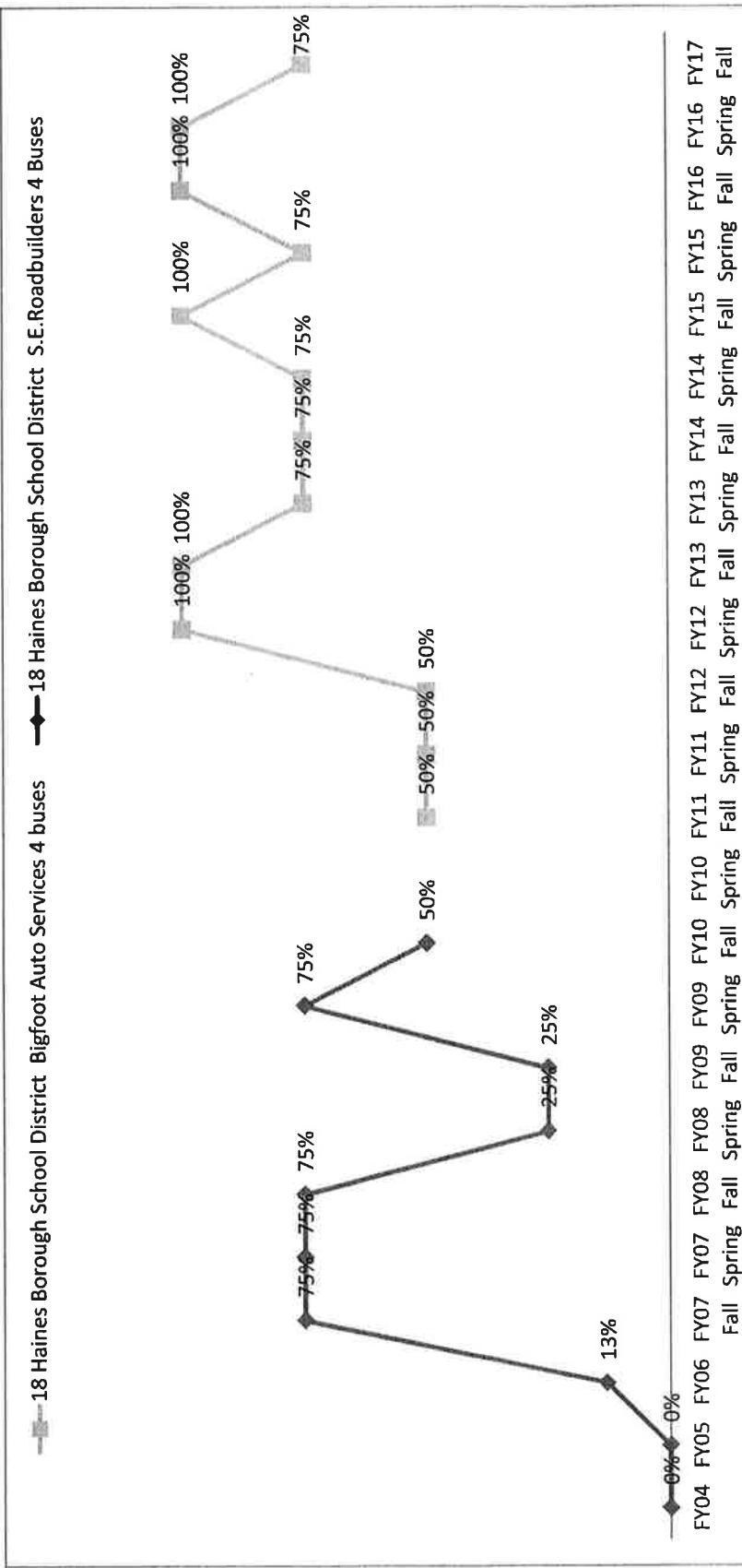
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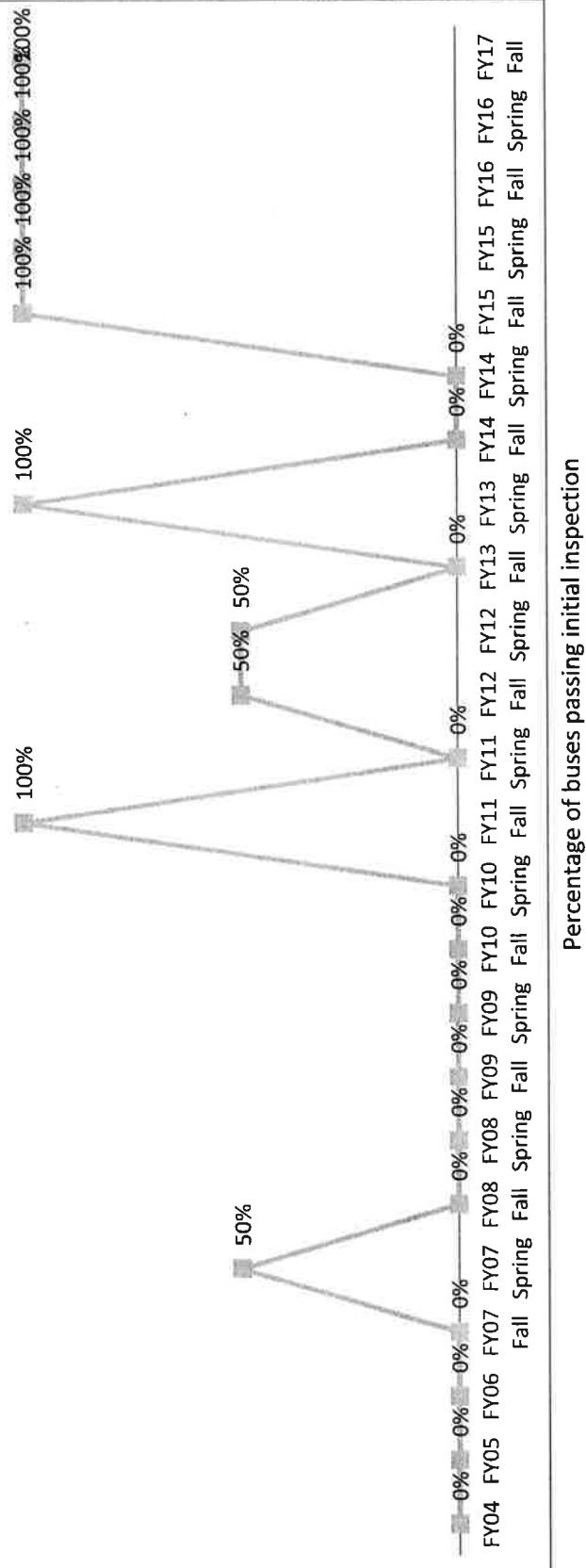


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

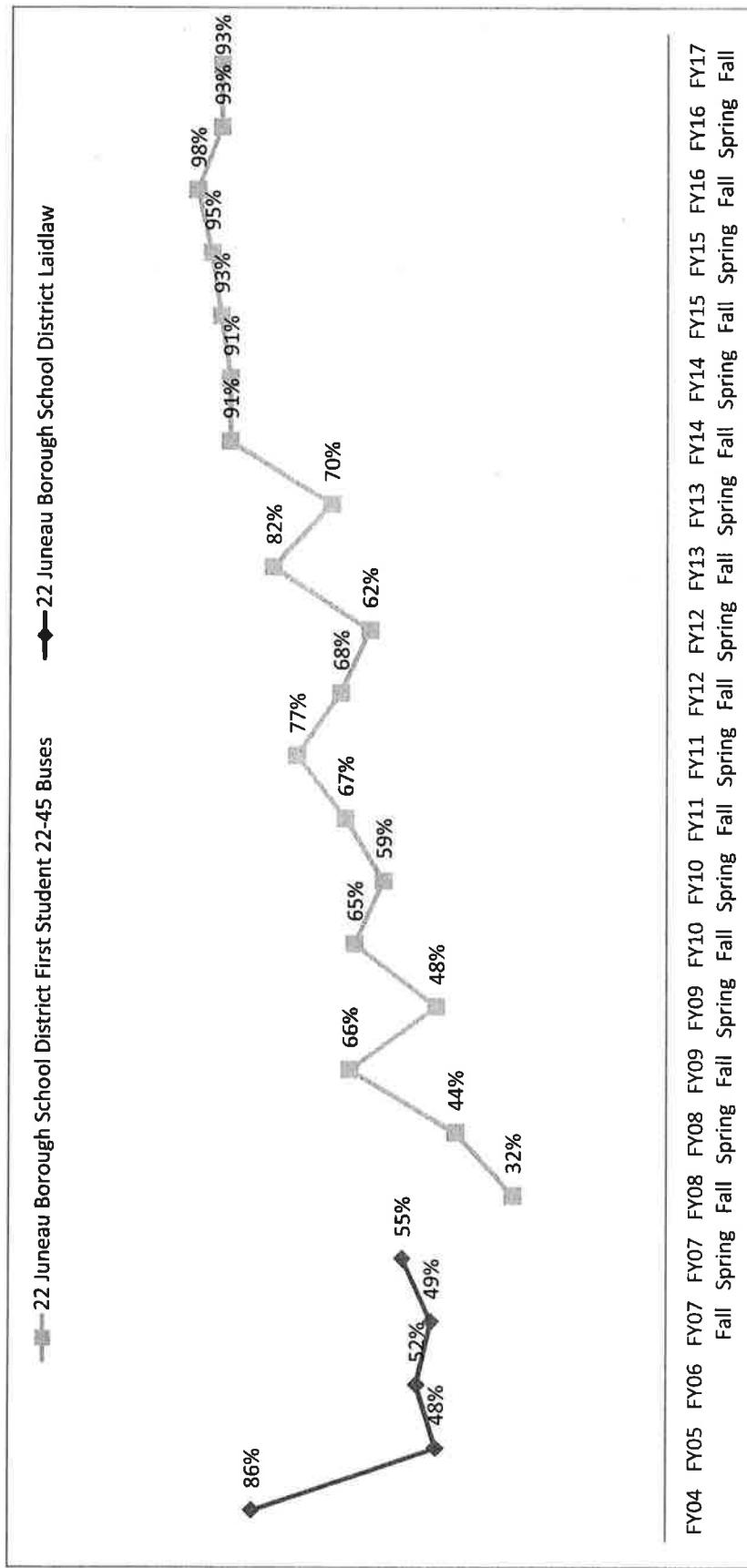
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 21 Iditarod Area School District District 1-2 Buses

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Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

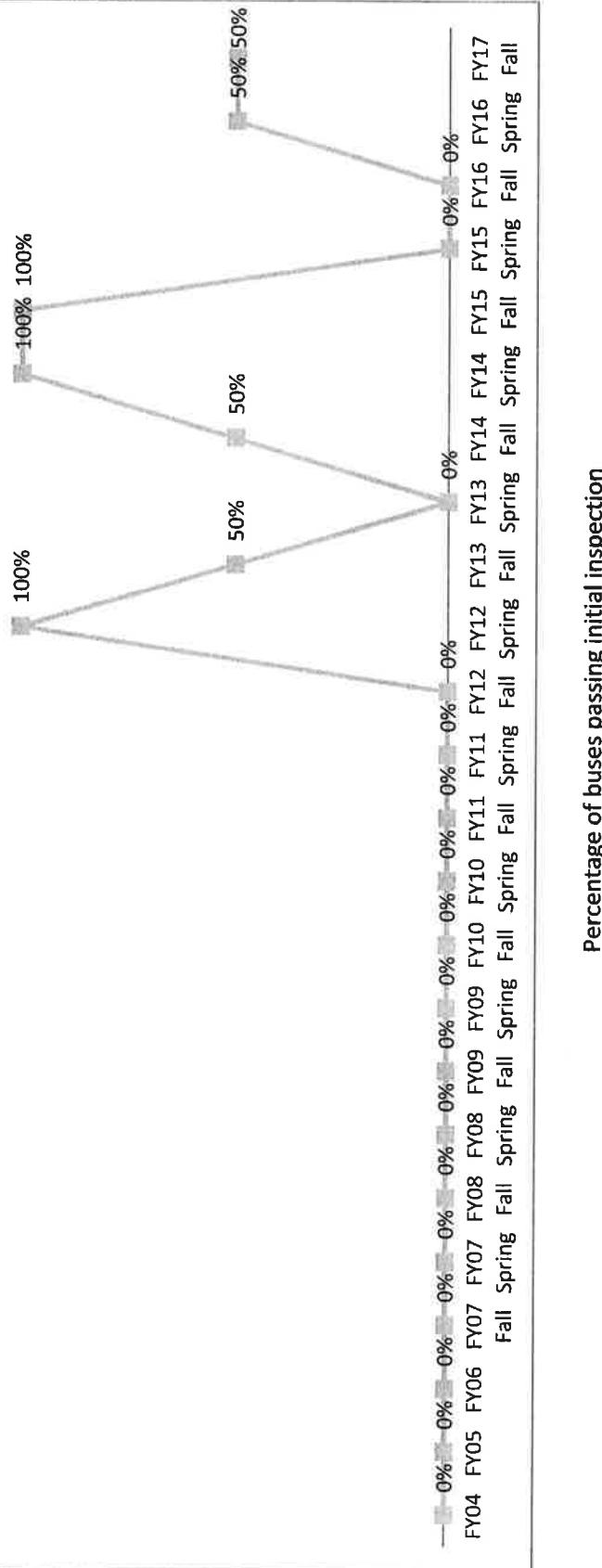


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 23 Kake City School District District 1-2 Bus (2 as of FY13)

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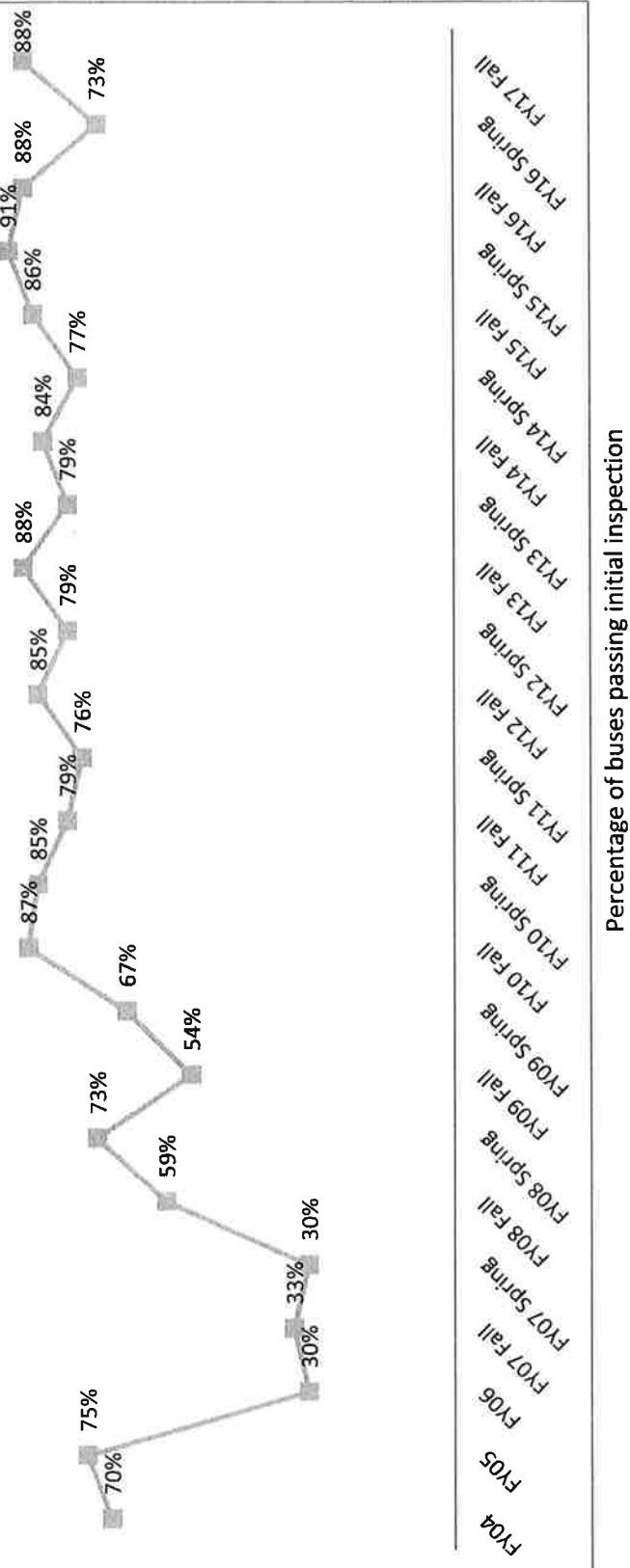


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

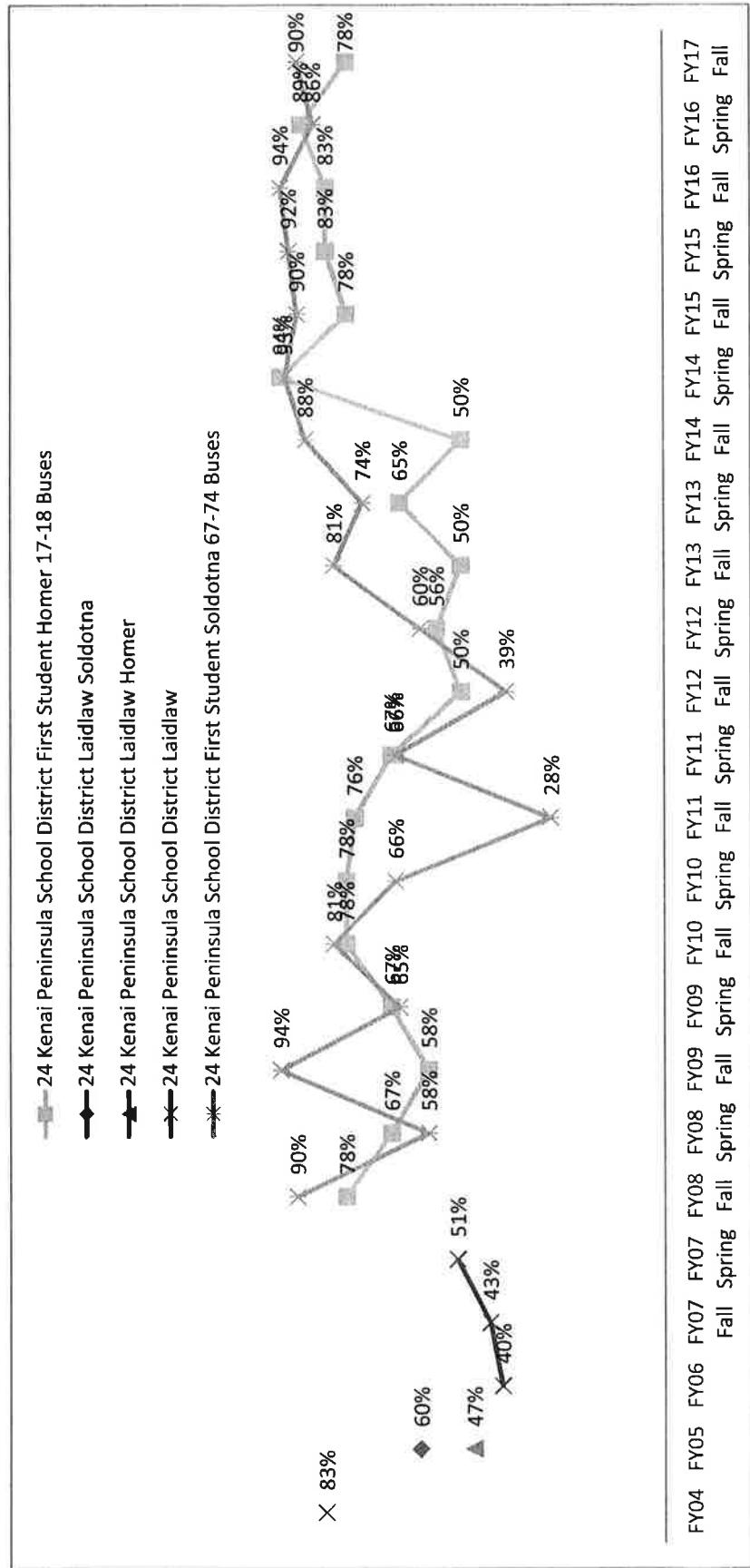
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 24 Kenai Peninsula School District District 31-35 Buses,

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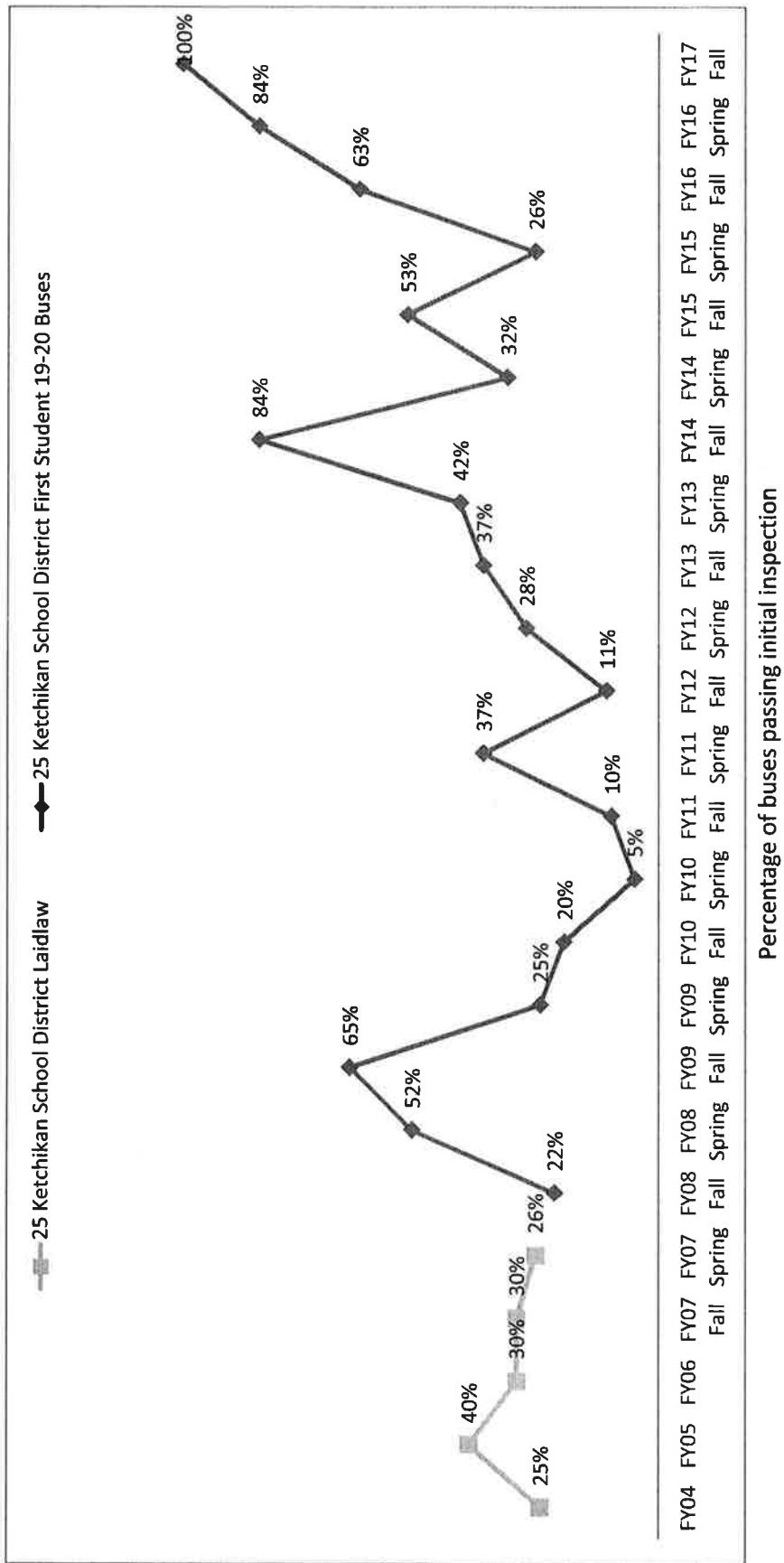


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



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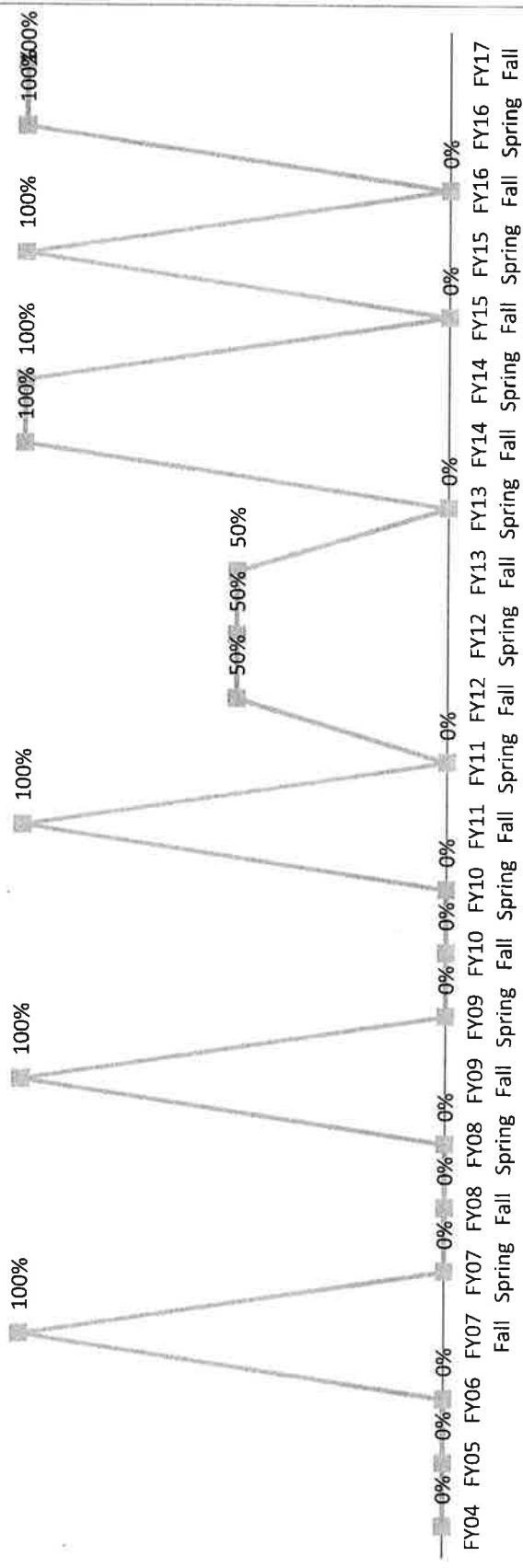
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



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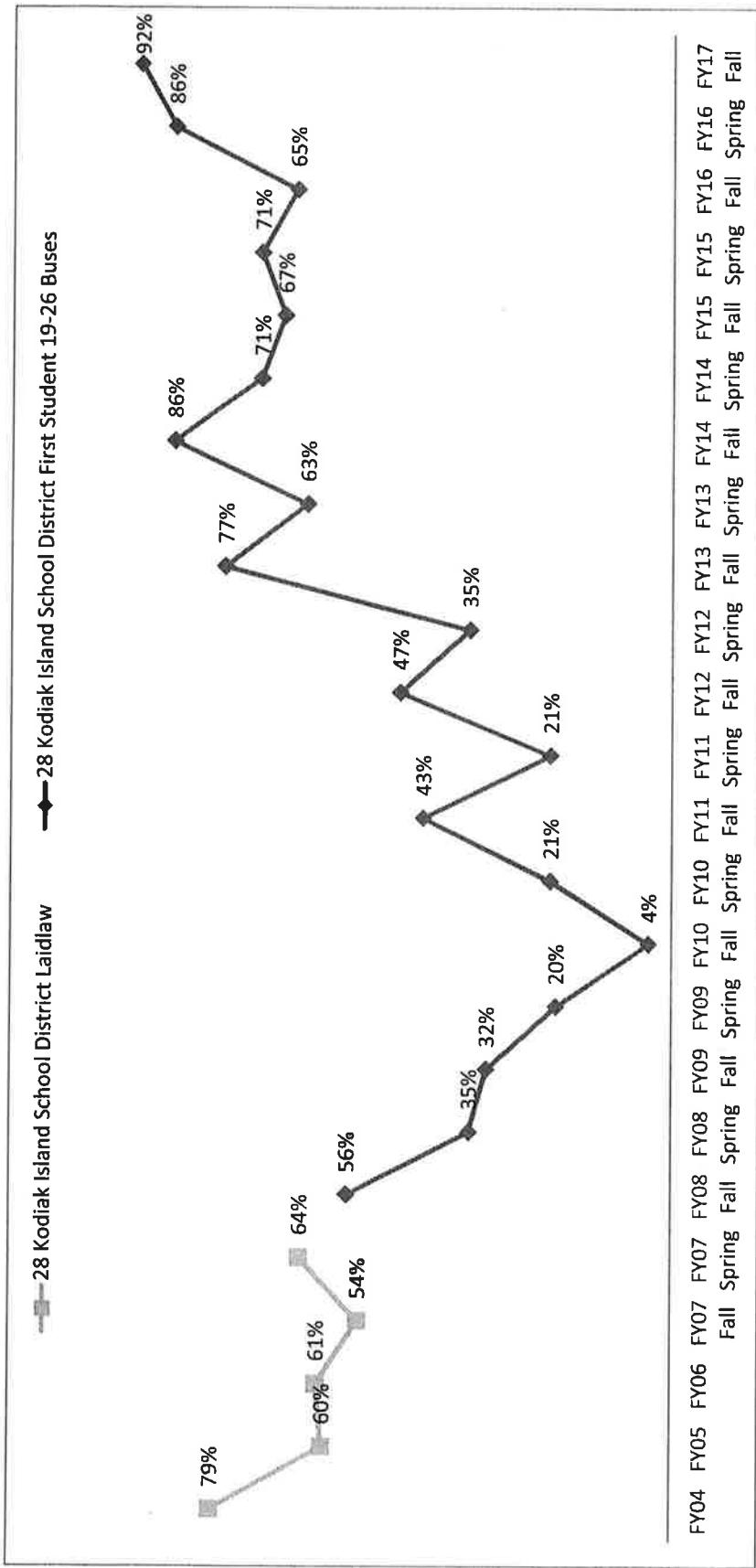
## 27 Klawock School District District 1-2 Buses

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Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

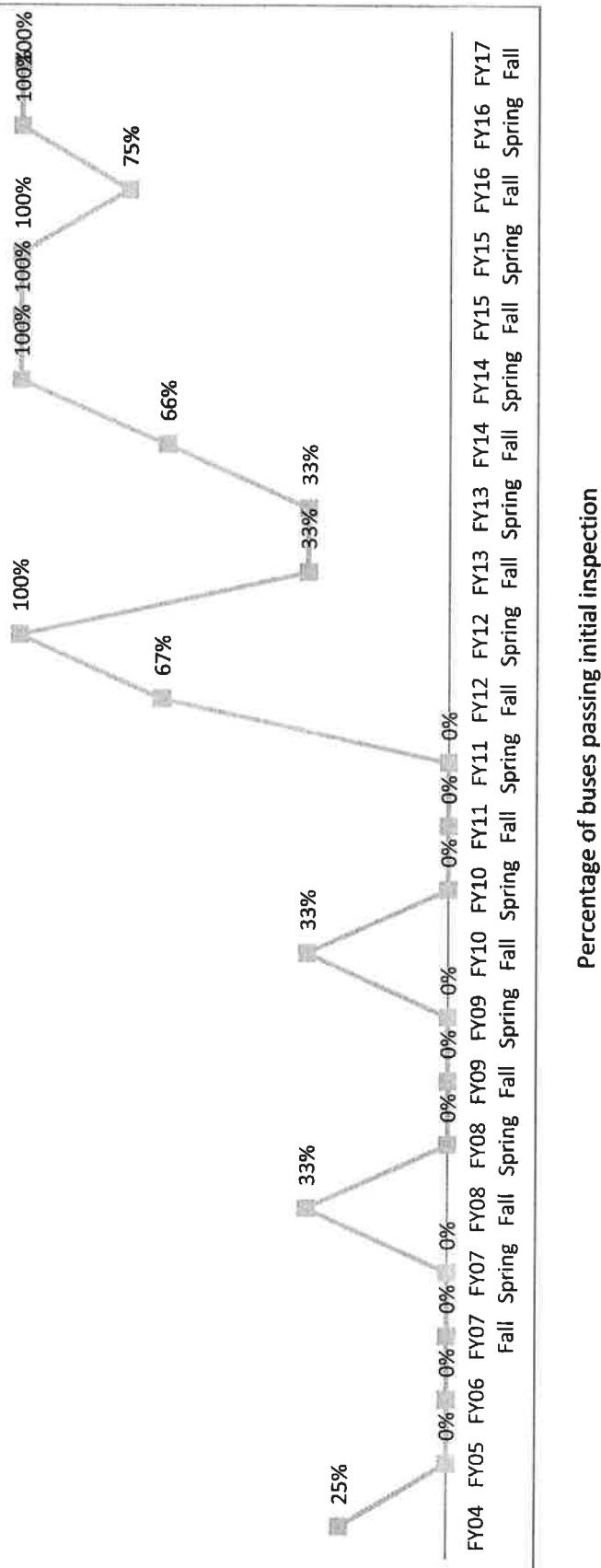


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 29 Kuspuk School District District 3-4 Buses

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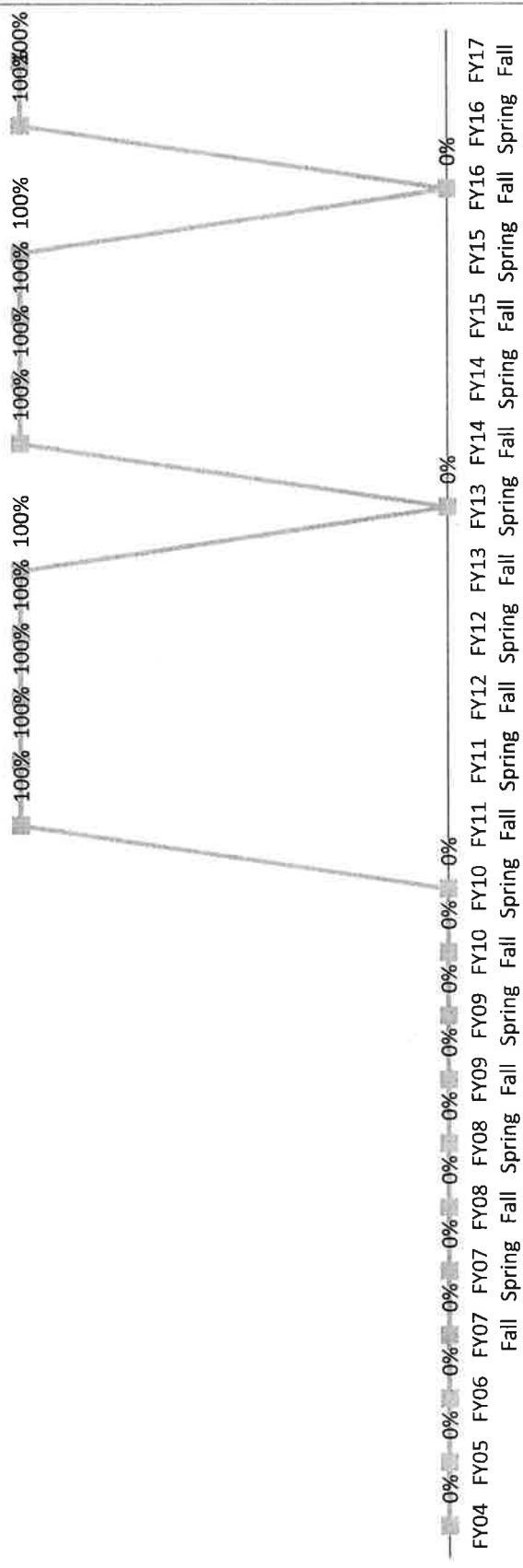


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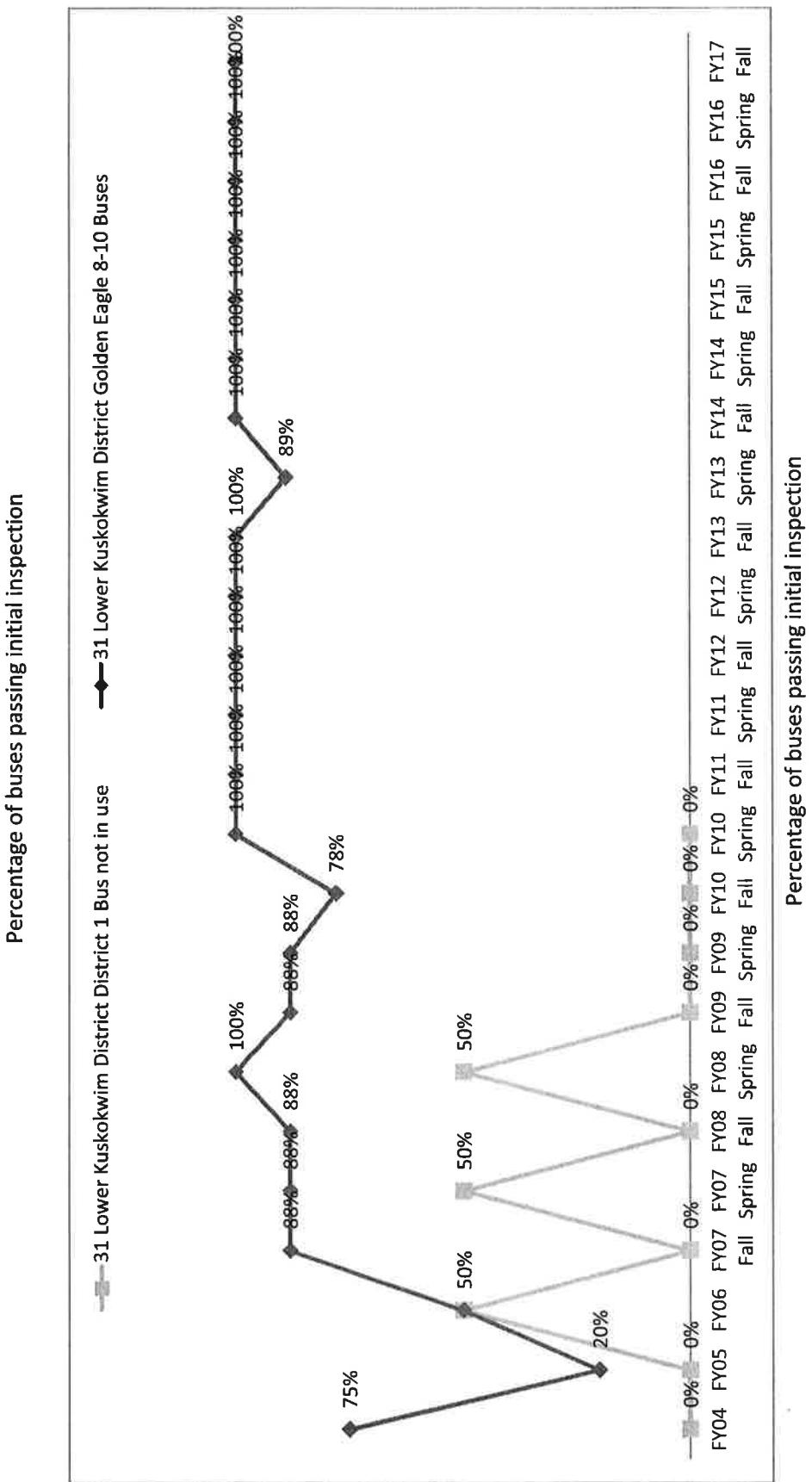
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 30 Lake & Peninsula District District 1 Bus

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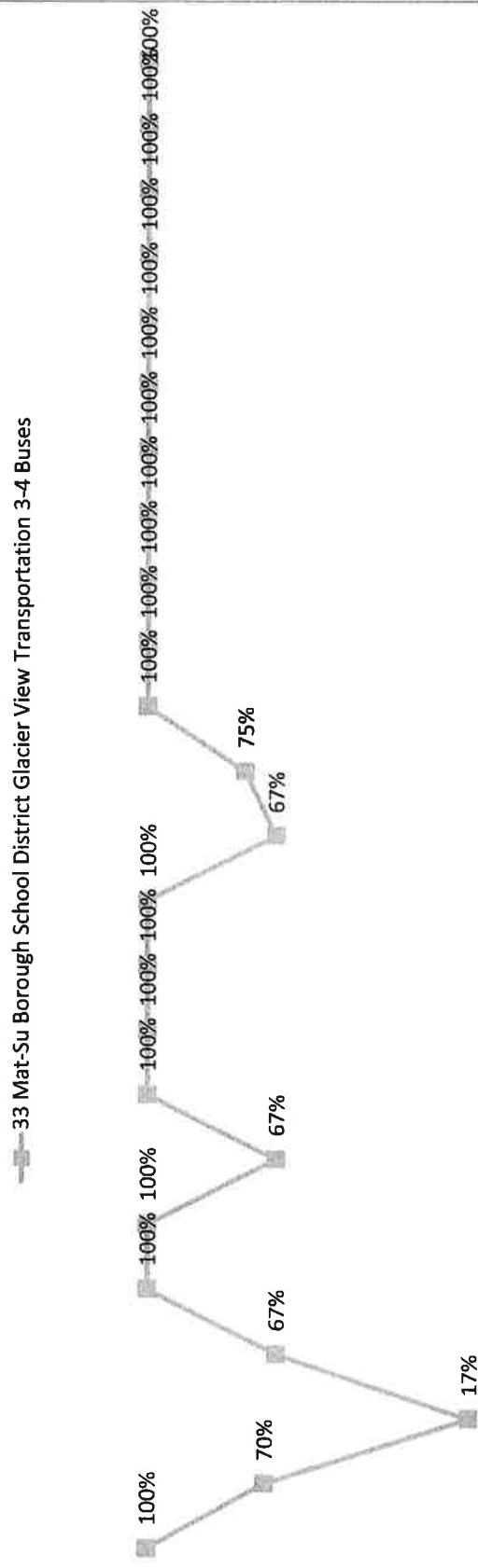


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 33 Mat-Su Borough School District Glacier View Transportation 3-4 Buses

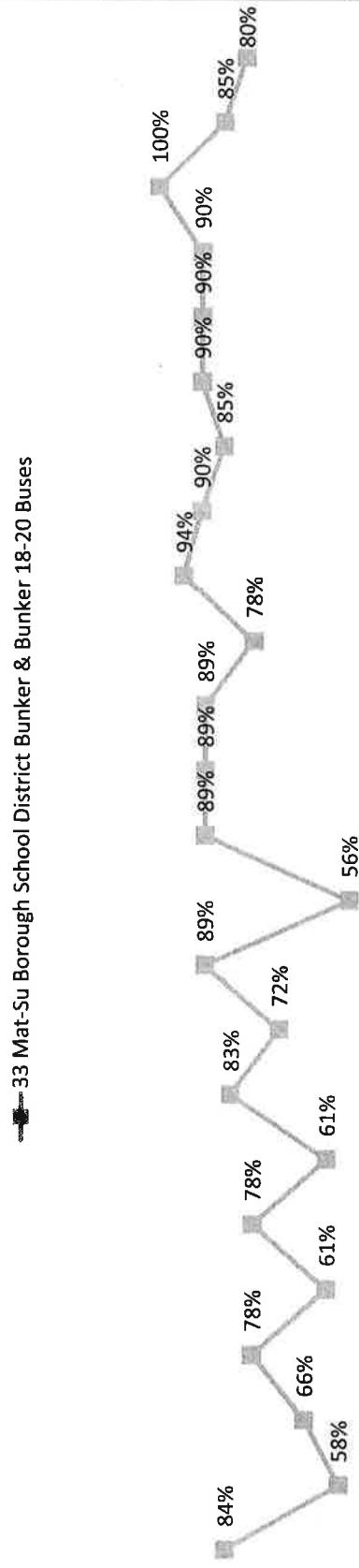


FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Fall	Spring												

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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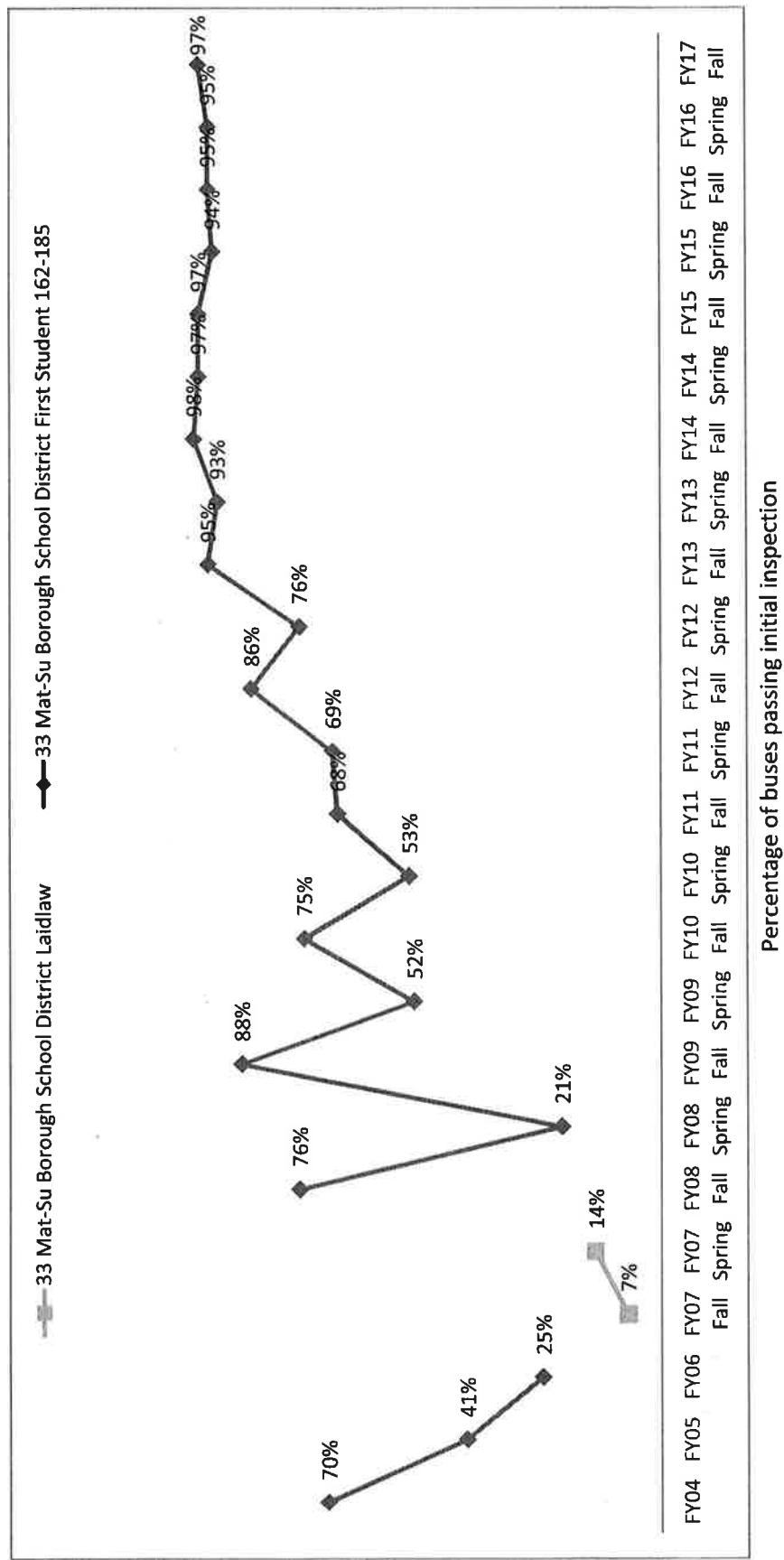
33 Mat-Su Borough School District Bunker & Bunker 18-20 Buses



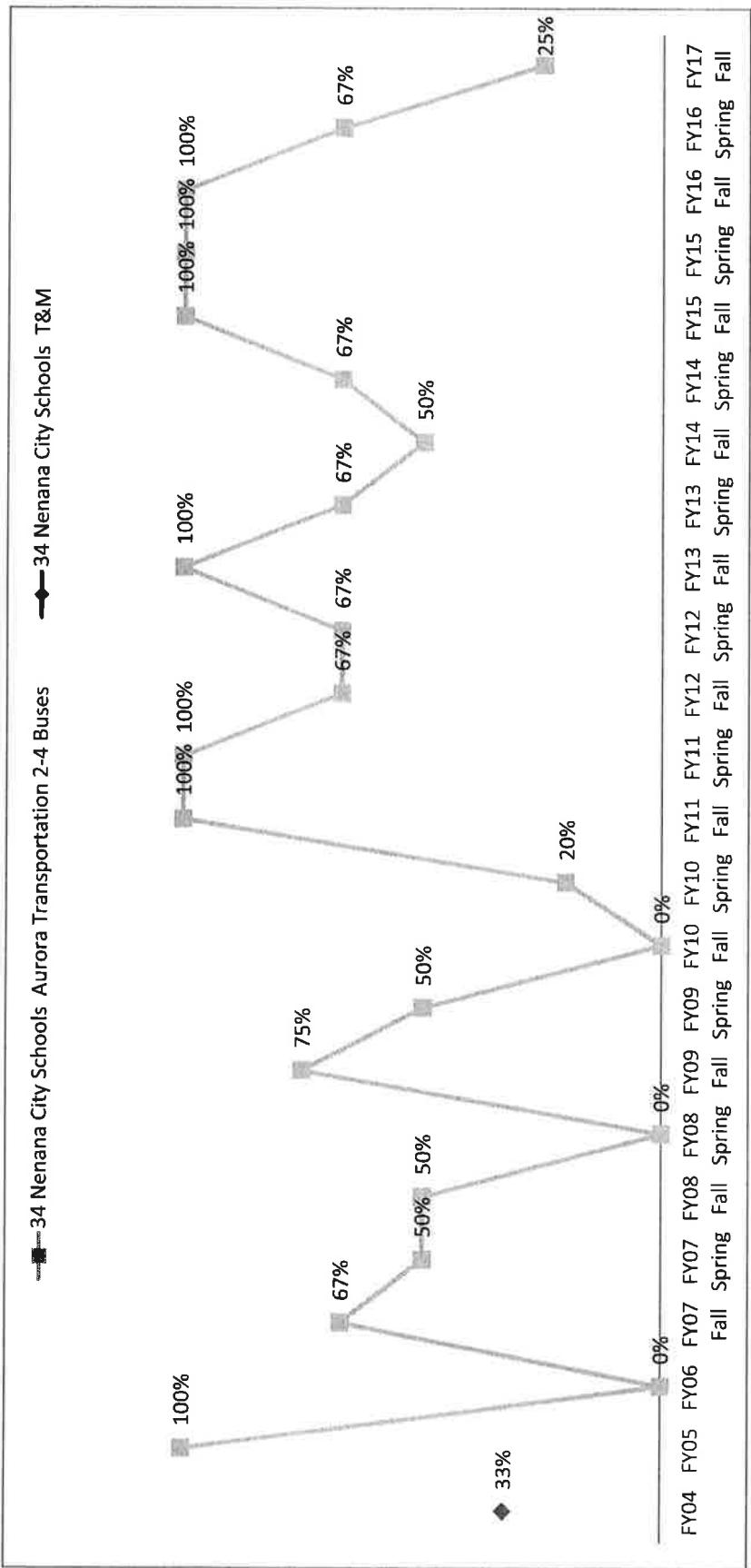
## Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

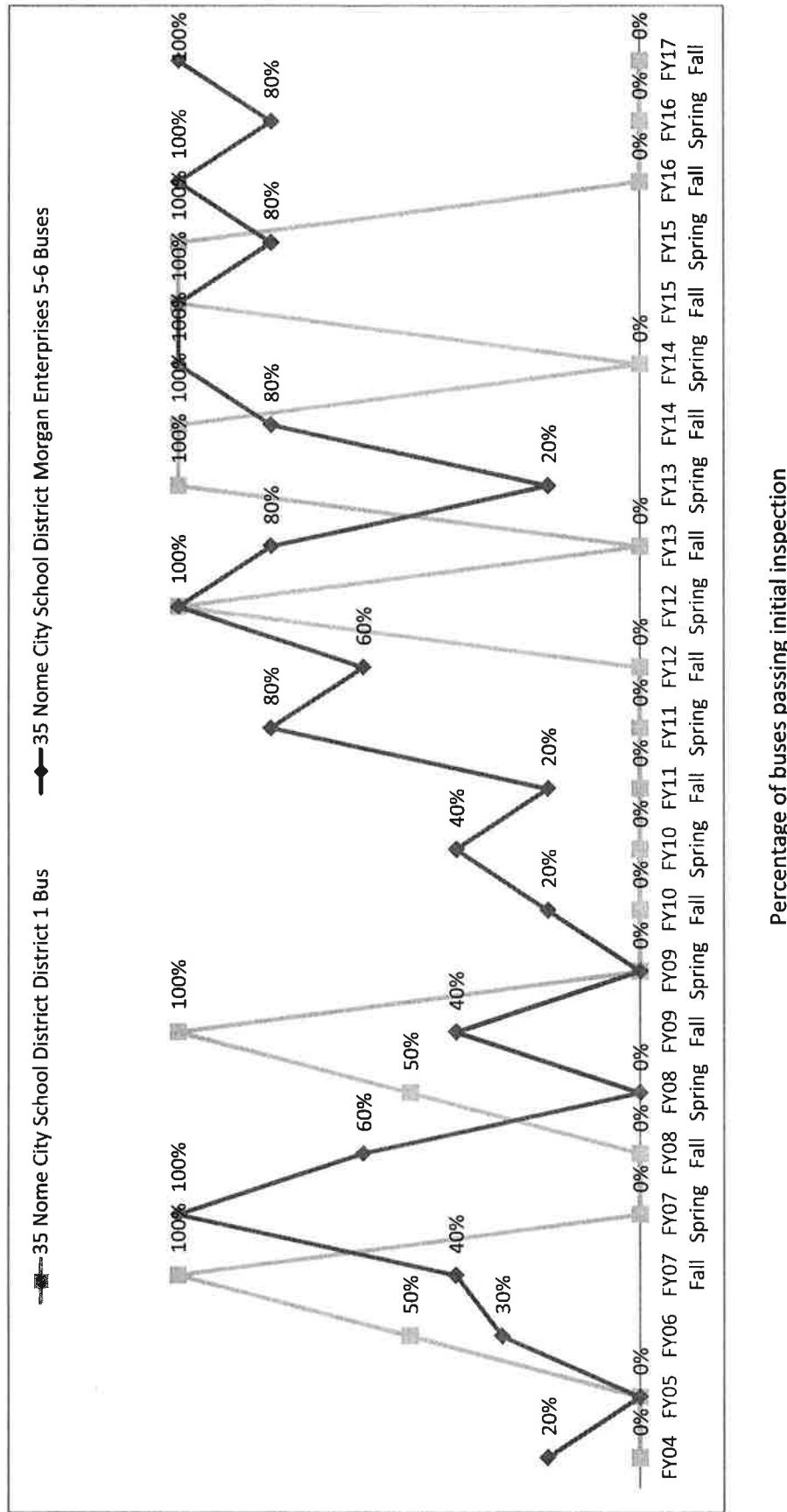


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



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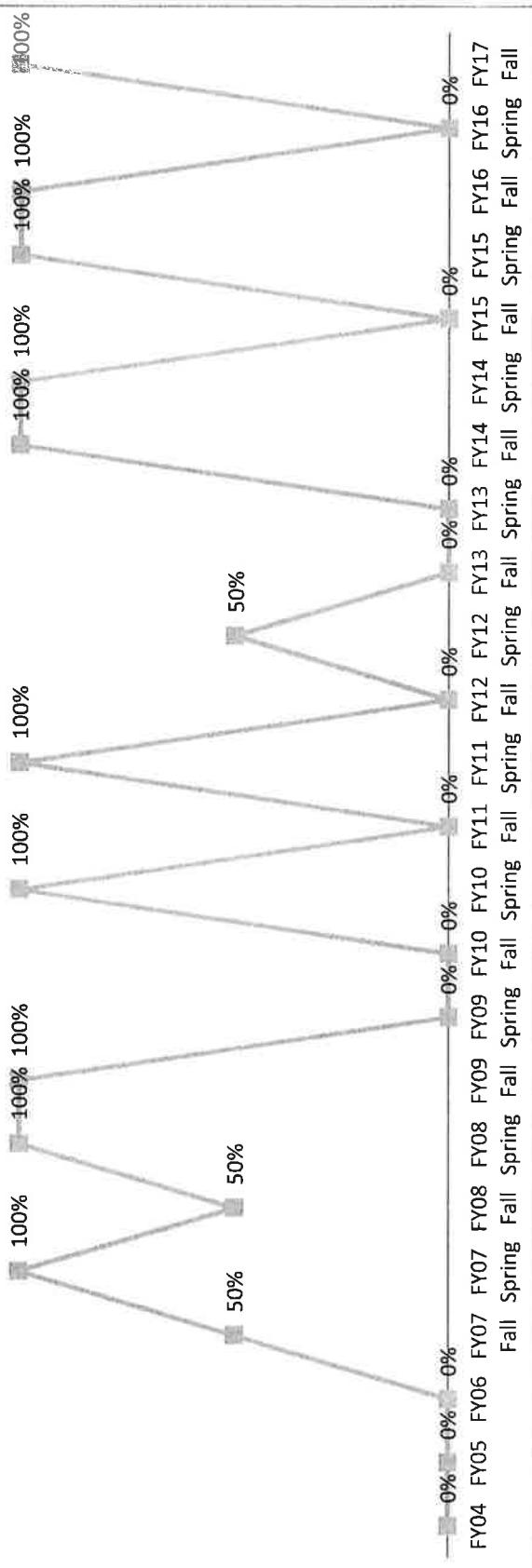


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 37 Northwest Arctic Borough School District 1-2 Bus

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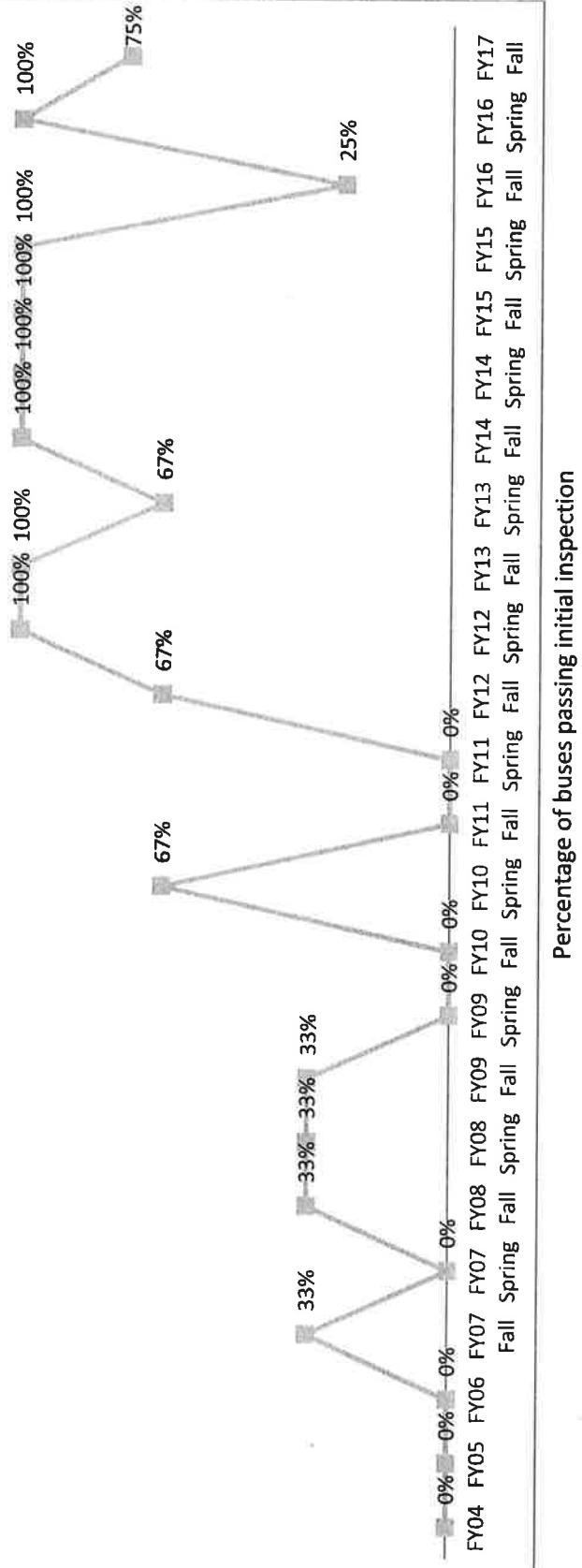


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

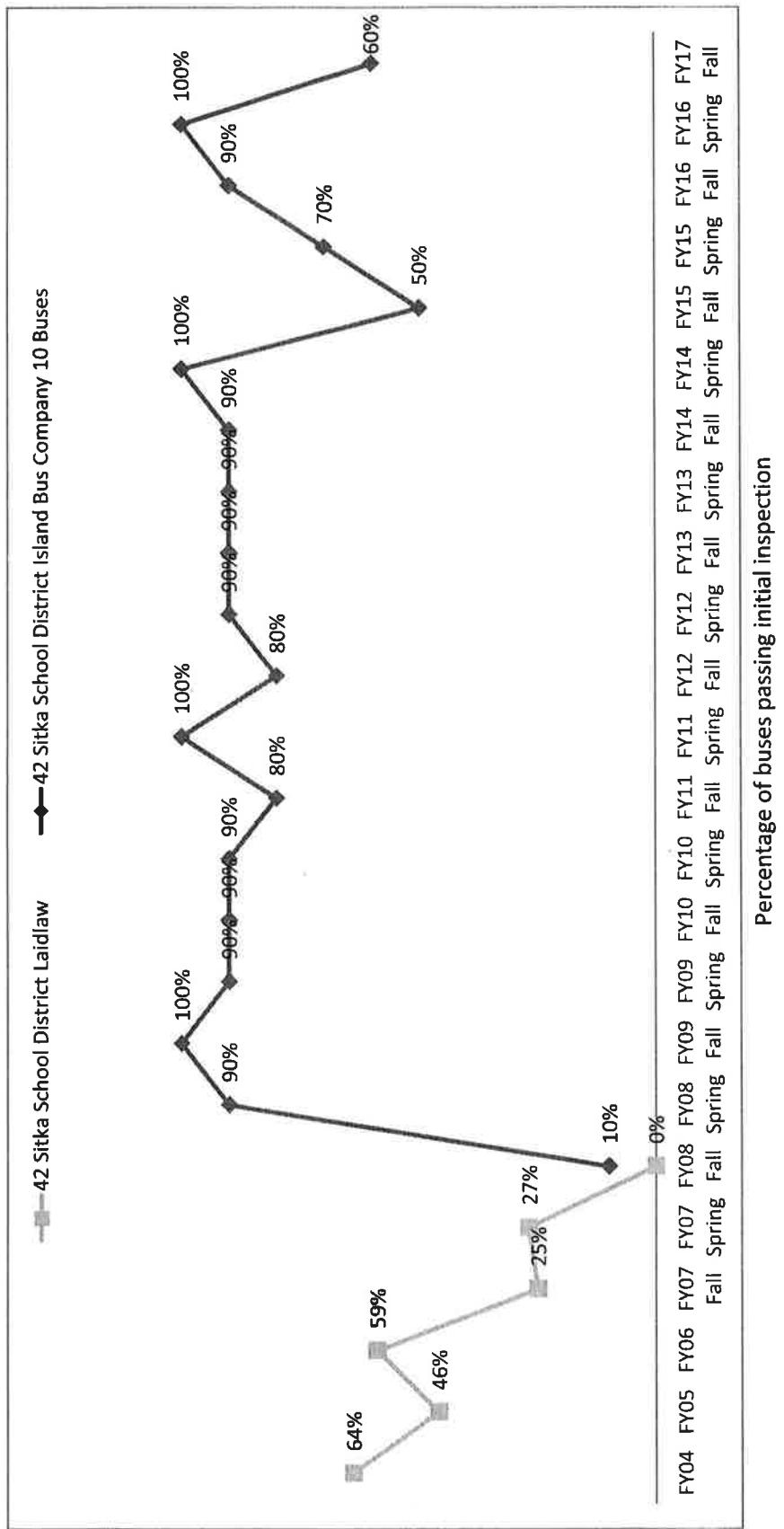
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 39 Petersburg School District Stikine 2-4 Buses

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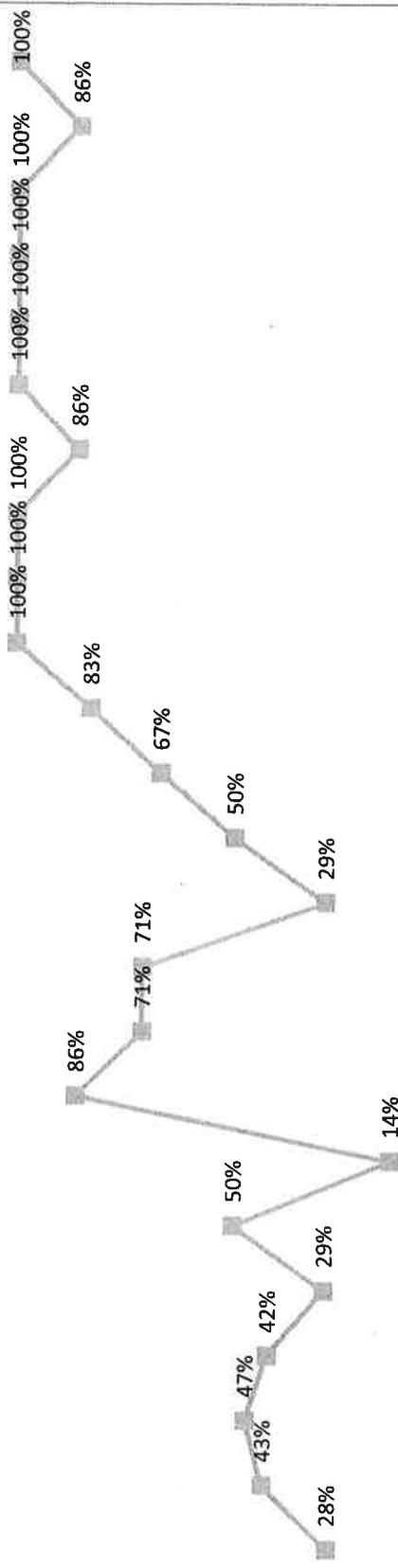
Percentage of buses passing initial inspection



Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 44 South East Island School District District 7-9 Buses

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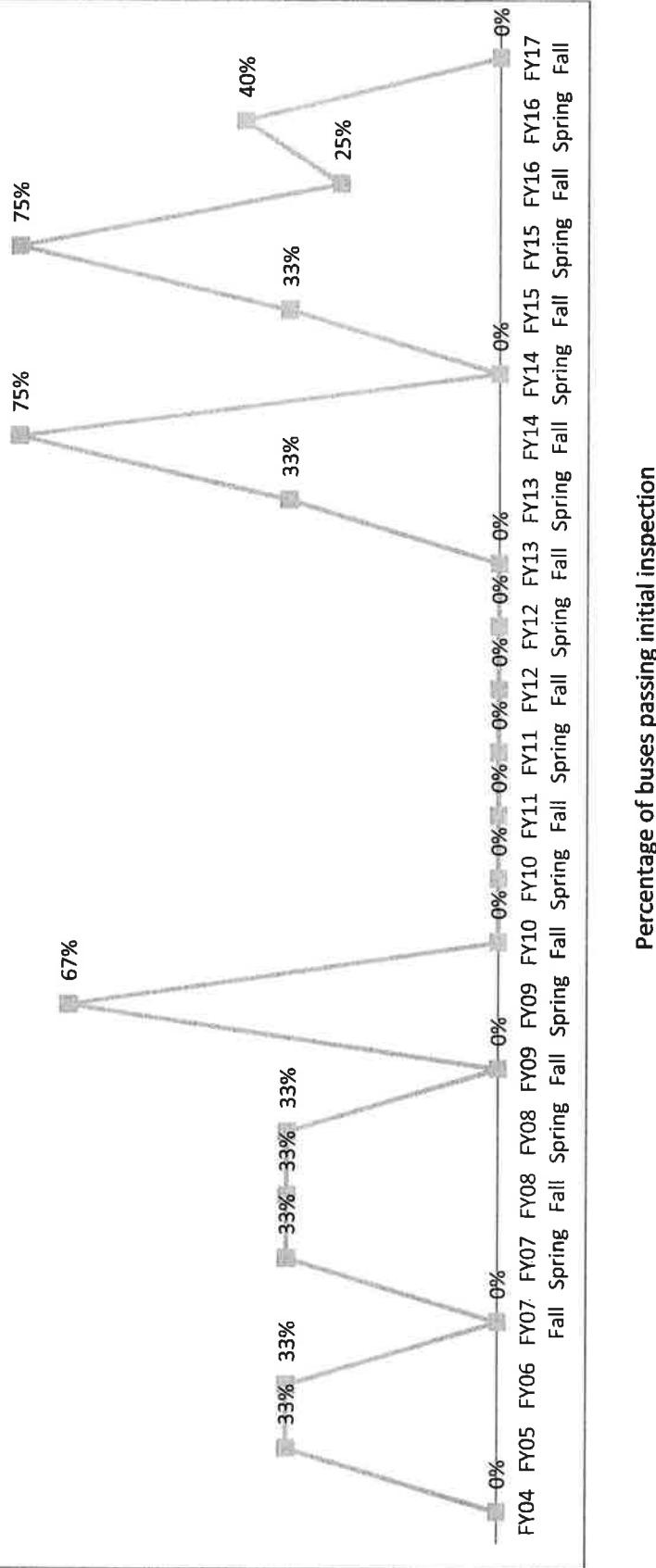
FY04 FY05 FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17  
Fall Spring Fall

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 45 Southwest Regional School District Manokotak Natives 2-4 Buses

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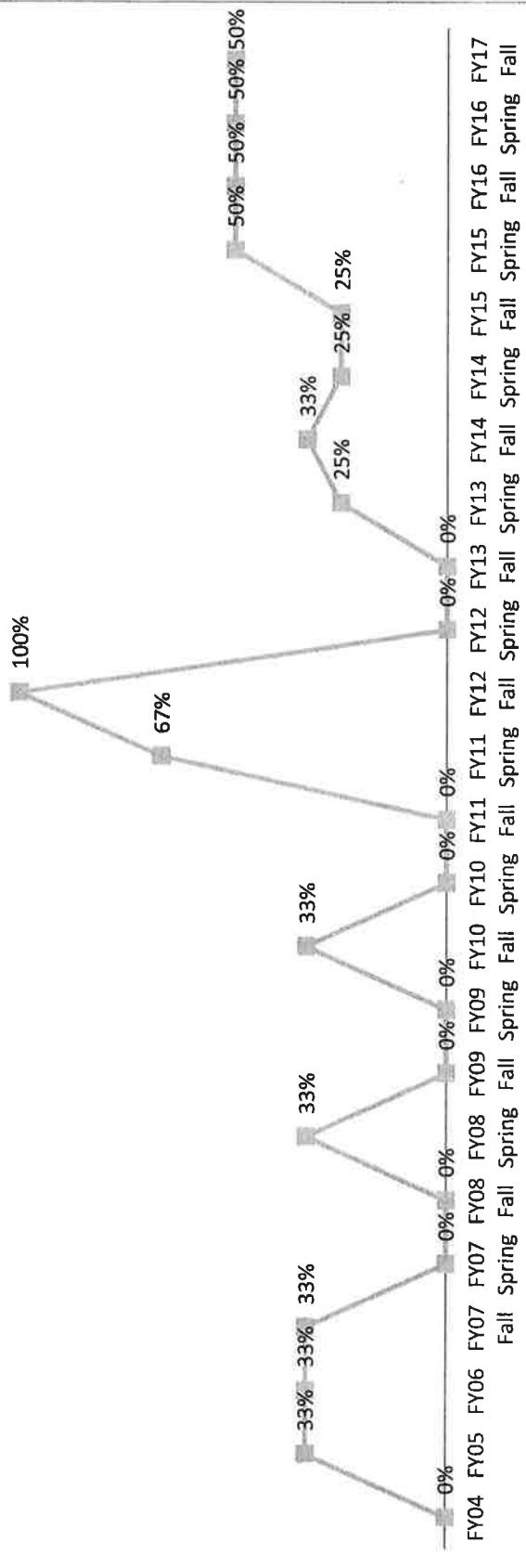


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 45 Southwest Regional School District Togiak Natives, LTD 3-4 Buses

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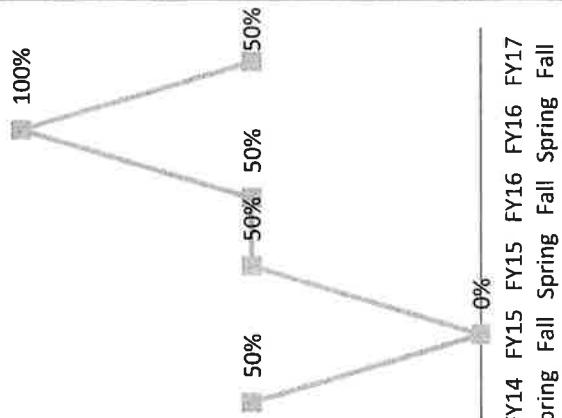


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 46 St Marys Schools District 1-2 buses

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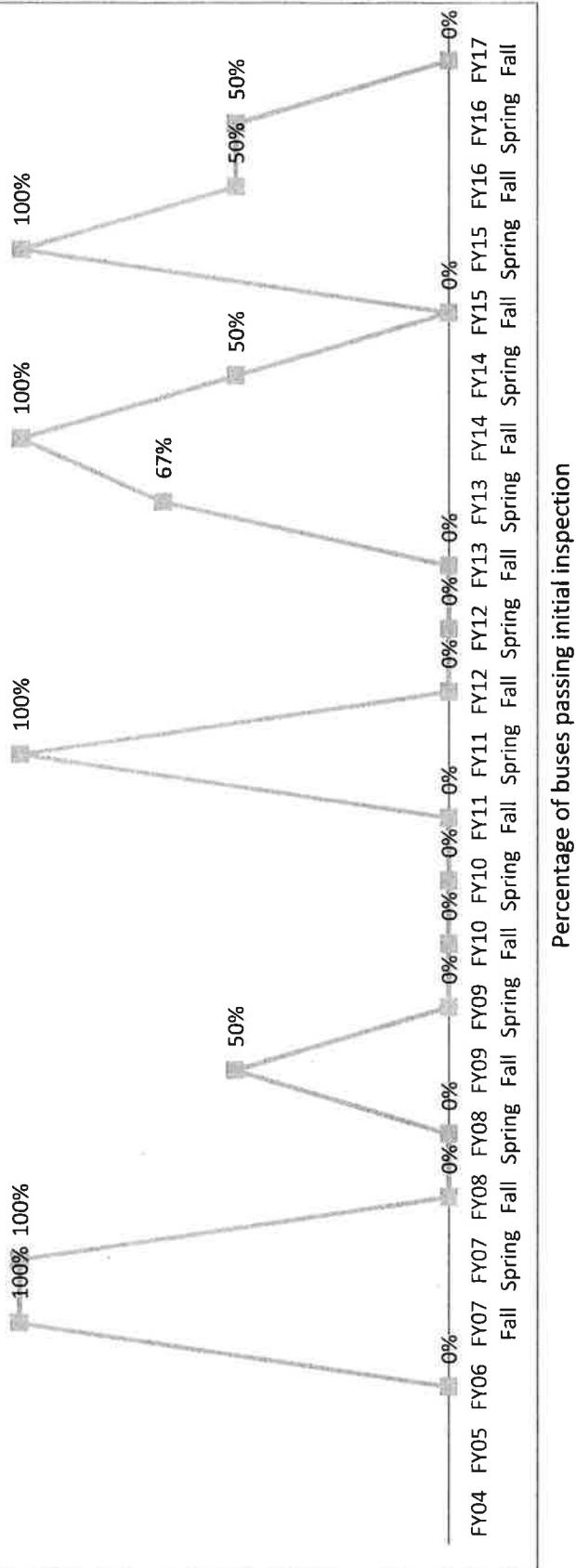


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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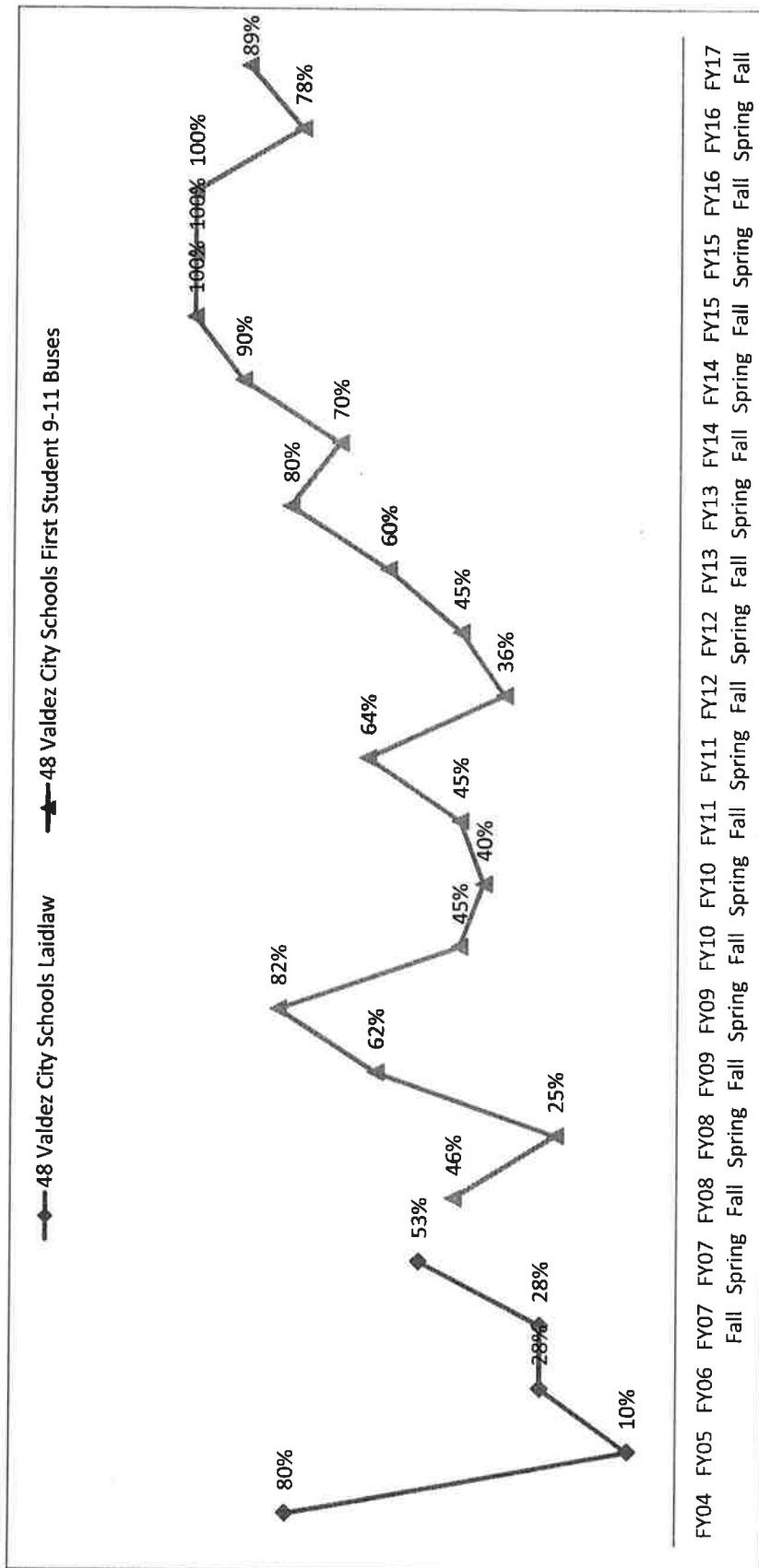
## 48 Valdez City Schools District 1-3 Bus

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Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

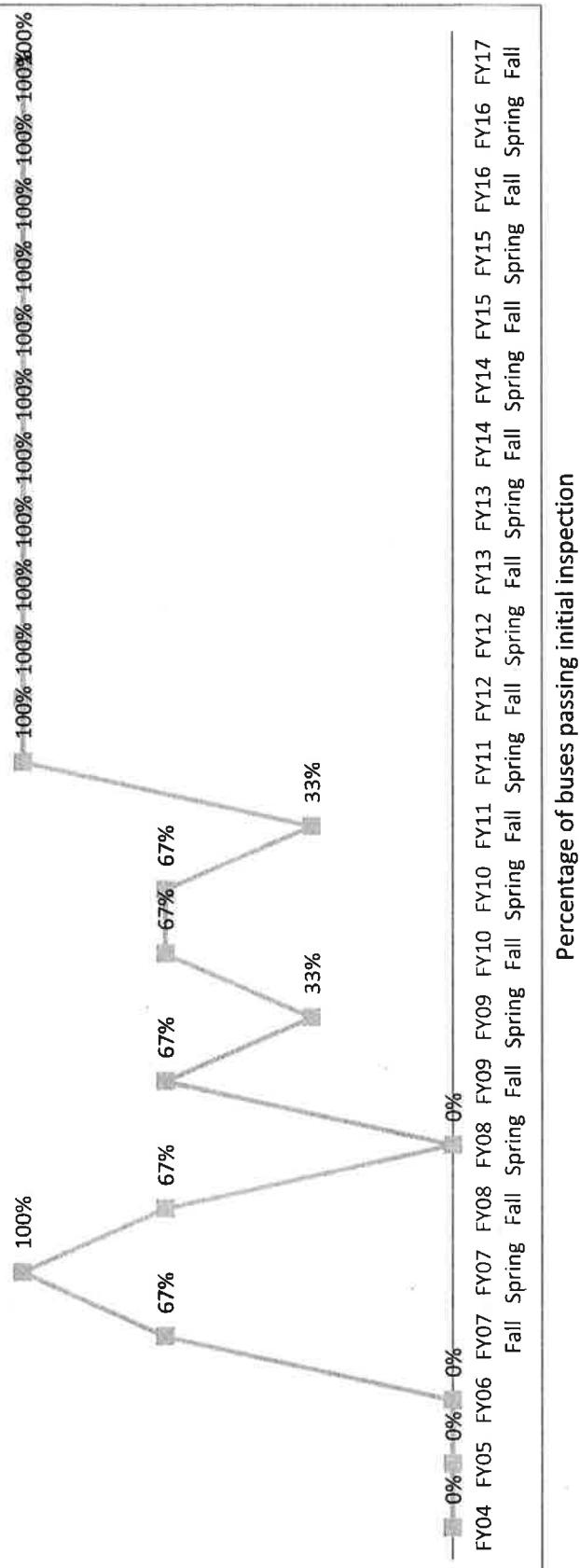


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 49 Wrangell School District Etolin Bus Co. 3-4 Buses

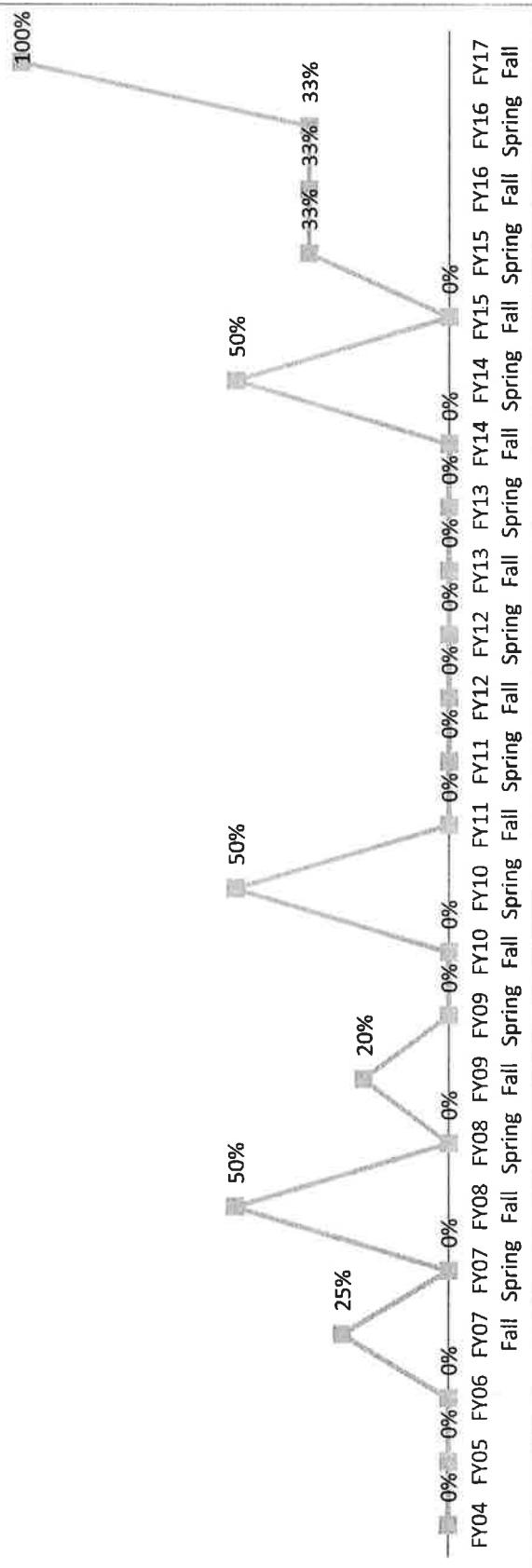
49 Wrangell School District Etolin Bus Co. 3-4 Buses



Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

## 51 Yukon Flats District 2-4 Buses

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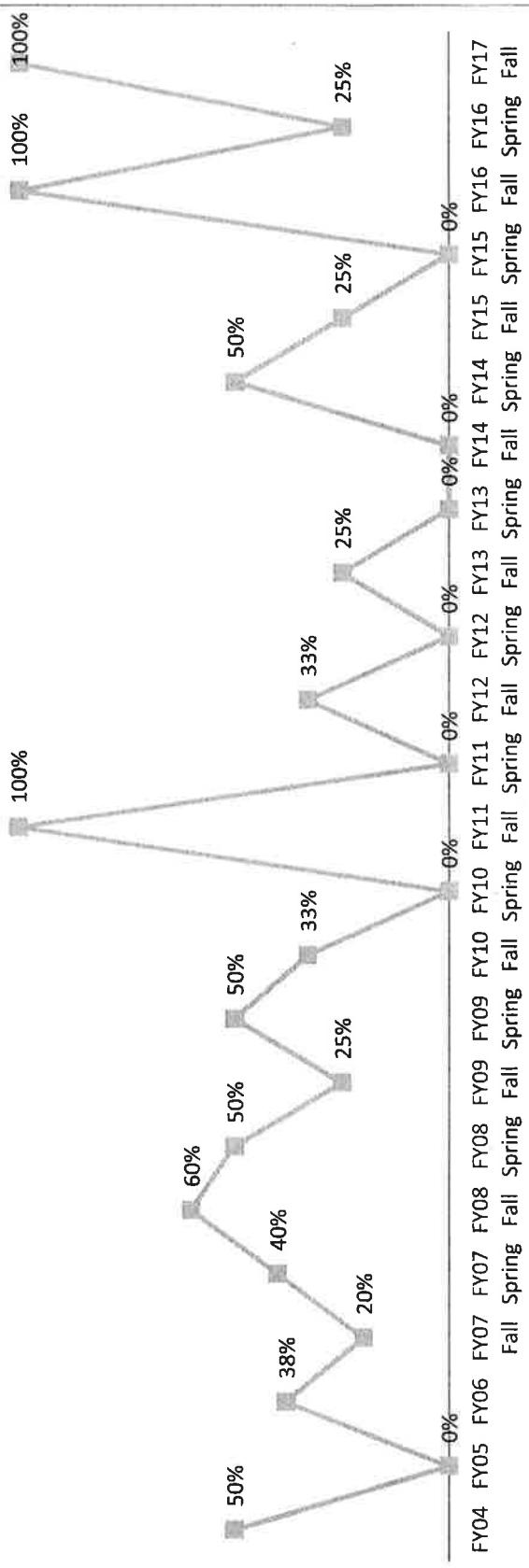


Percentage of buses passing initial inspection

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## 52 Yukon Koyukuk District District 1 -4 Buses

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Percentage of buses passing initial inspection