



MISD Transportation



Senate Bill 546
Three-point Seat Belts



School Bus Seat Belt Requirements

What School Boards Must Do:

Before May 29, 2026, trustees must:

- **Hear a public report** on seat belt requirements and associated costs/financial feasibility
- **Make a formal determination** on whether the district can comply
- **Take action** if the district's budget does not allow compliance (May Agenda Item)

If the board determines the district cannot meet the requirement, the district must submit documentation to the Texas Education Agency, including the meeting agenda, minutes, and the board's formal decision.



Senate Bill 546

School Bus Seat Belt Requirements

Texas Senate Bill 546 significantly expands prior requirements by mandating that all school buses be equipped with three-point seat belts. This law impacts both existing and future fleets and requires districts to plan proactively for compliance, funding, and reporting.

- Requires **three-point seat belts on all school buses** (new and existing)
- Establishes a **compliance deadline of September 1, 2029**
- Allows **limited exemptions** for districts facing financial constraints (must be documented)
- Requires **cost reporting and compliance updates** to the Texas Education Agency



School Bus Seat Belt Requirements:

Current Status & Next Steps



SB 546 – Three-Point Seat Belt Compliance

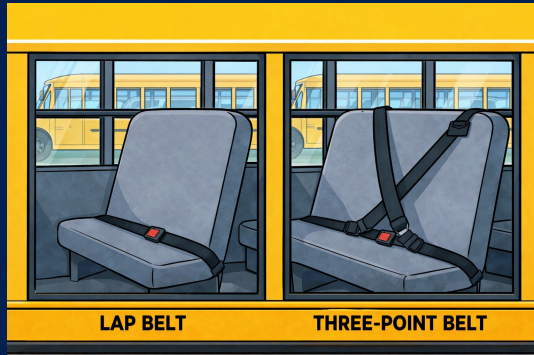
In accordance with SB 546 requirements for three-point seat belts on school buses, the current status of Manor Independent School District is as follows:

- Manor ISD operates a total of **87 school buses**. Of these, **53 buses are fully equipped with three-point seat belts on every seat**, meeting the requirements outlined in SB 546. **Some of the remaining 34 buses are equipped with lap seat belts only in the front seats**; however, under the new SB 546 requirements, these lap belts do not meet current seat belt standards.
- MISD continues to evaluate its fleet and remains committed to improving student safety by working toward increased compliance with SB 546 as part of future bus replacement and upgrade planning.



School Bus Seat Belt Requirements:

Current Status & Next Steps



- MISD Transportation Department has identified that 34 existing school buses must be retrofitted with manufacturer approved seat belts to meet updated safety requirements. The current estimated cost for retrofitting these buses is **\$1,139,000**.
- This cost may be reduced if the District replaces a portion of the fleet with new buses already equipped with compliant seat belt systems prior to the state implementation deadline.

Anticipated expense is driven by Texas Senate Bill 546 (89th Legislature), which requires that all school buses, regardless of model year, be equipped with three-point (lap-shoulder) seat belts for each passenger and the driver.



School Bus Seat Belt Requirements:

Financial Discussion

Seat Belt Requirement Financial Discussion

- 1. Current Local Funding Status**
 - Currently, there are **no available local funds** in the general fund to cover the costs associated with installing seat belts in district vehicles.
 - Any reallocation from existing programs would negatively impact other critical services and operations.
- 2. State Funding Limitations**
 - At this time, there are **limited options for state funding** to support seat belt compliance.
 - Existing state funding streams, including instructional and operational allocations, are already fully committed to ongoing programs.
- 3. Interest & Sinking (I&S) Fund Considerations**
 - The Interest & Sinking fund is primarily dedicated to debt service obligations.
 - There is **limited flexibility** to redirect I&S funds without impacting bond schedules.
- 4. Financial Feasibility Summary**
 - Based on current analysis, the district **cannot identify sufficient funding sources** to implement the seat belt requirement without affecting essential operations.
- 5. Next Steps / Recommendation**
 - Administration recommends the Board consider whether the district can comply with the seat belt requirement given these financial constraints, and, if not, Manor ISD will submit the necessary documentation to the Texas Education Agency.



Questions

