

Henderson ISD Board Background

Subject: Consider Possible Action Regarding Senate Bill 546 3-Point Seat Belt Requirement

Presented for: Action X Report Only

Background Information

Senate Bill 46, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, requires that all school buses operated by or contracted for use by a school district be equipped with three-point seat belts for every passenger, including the driver, by the 2029-2030 school year.

Districts must ensure that all newly purchased buses meet the three-point seat belt requirement and develop a plan to bring existing fleet inventory into compliance by the statutory deadline.

Currently, the District must evaluate:

- The number of buses in the existing fleet that do not meet the three-point seat belt requirement
- The remaining useful life of non-compliant buses
- The cost difference between standard buses and buses equipped with three-point seat belts

Based on current financial projections, the district will not be able to fund a large-scale fleet replacement within the General fund prior to the 2029-2030 deadline without identifying additional funding sources.

Administration will continue to monitor legislative guidance and funding opportunities and will bring forward recommendations as part of future budget development discussions.

Recommendation

Current budget constraints do not permit the purchase of new buses or retrofitting of existing buses to comply with Senate Bill 546.

Contact Person(s)

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