



San Elizario ISD  
 P.O. Box 920  
 San Elizario, TX 79849  
 Phone: 915.872.3900  
 Fax: 915.872.3903

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Members of the Board of Trustees  
**From:** Elizabeth Perez, Chief Financial Officer  
 Jesus Martinez, Executive Director-Support Services  
**Subject:** Discussion and possible Board action to determine whether the district budget allows for the purchase of buses with Three-Point Seat Belts and review of district-collected Seat Belt Data to fulfill SB 546 reporting requirements  
**Date:** April 8, 2026

**HISTORY:** Senate Bill 546 (89th Legislature), effective September 1, 2025, amends Texas Transportation Code §547.701 to require that all buses operated by or contracted for use by a school district for the transportation of school children be equipped with three-point seat belts for every passenger, including the driver.

**RATIONALE:** The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board with data and cost information to determine whether it is financially feasible, within the current budget, to purchase buses equipped with 3-point (lap/shoulder) seat belts to replace 27 buses that are not equipped accordingly (table below). In accordance with Texas Transportation Code 547.701(e)(1), the Board of Trustees must determine whether the district’s budget can support the purchase of such buses.

Below is a summary of the current bus fleet inventory:

<b>Total fleet (all buses)</b>	<b>39</b>
Already equipped with 3-point seat belts	8
Surplus buses (excluded from retrofit plan)	4
<b>Buses out of compliance per Senate Bill 546</b>	<b>27</b>

The estimated cost to purchase 27 new buses to replace the buses that do not have 3-point seat belts is **\$4,392,800.00**.

If the Board determines that the budget does not allow for the purchase of new buses with 3-point seat belts, the district should prepare a report to be presented to the Board during a public meeting. The report will need to include the following:

1. The number of buses operated by or contracted for use by the district that:
  - a. Are not equipped with seat belts; **19 buses**

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.



San Elizario ISD  
P.O. Box 920  
San Elizario, TX 79849  
Phone: 915.872.3900  
Fax: 915.872.3903

- b. Are equipped with two-point seat belts; **8 buses**
  - c. Are equipped with three-point seat belts; **8 buses**
2. The estimated cost to the district to retrofit 27 buses with three-point seat belts is **\$586,372.00 (Freight charges are not included)**

*As part of the estimated cost reporting, school systems will be able to participate in a TEA grant opportunity related to seat belt installation.*

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

There is currently no budget impact on this item.

The following estimates will be provided to TEA:

1. The estimated cost to purchase 27 new buses to replace the buses that do not have 3-point seat belts is **\$4,392,800.00**.
2. The estimated cost to equip 27 buses with three-point seat belts is **\$586,372.00**. (Freight charges are not included)

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

The administrative recommendation is for the Board to approve one of the following determinations:

1. The Board determines that the district's budget does not allow for the purchase of buses equipped with three-point seat belts and authorizes the Superintendent or designee to submit to the Texas Education Agency the estimated cost to equip each bus operated by, and/or contracted for use by the district with three-point seat belts, pursuant to SB 546.

OR

2. The Board determines that the district's budget does allow for the purchase of buses equipped with three-point seat belts and authorizes the Superintendent or designee to plan for the purchase of such buses, pursuant to SB 546.

**For Approval?**  Yes  No

**If not, please check one:**  Presentation  Report  Information

**Please check if applicable:**  Attachment Included

---

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.