

# NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Subject:** **Information Regarding Transportation SB 546**

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**Date:** September 29, 2025

**Administrator Responsible/Position:** **Brittany Johnson, Director of Transportation**

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**A. Purpose of Agenda Item:**

☒ Information Only

☐ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

**B. Authority for This Action:**

☐ Local Policy

☐ Law or Rule

☒ N/A

**C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:**

☐ Strategic Plan

☒ District/Campus  
Improvement  
Plan

☐ Other

**Priorities**

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☐ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☒ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

**Board Goals for 2023-2028**

☐ **Goal 1\*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 2\*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 3\*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

**Summary:** Transportation - SB 546

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**Background**

**Information:**

Previous legislation, SB 693, stated that school buses manufactured after 2018 had to include 3 point seatbelts unless a district's school board determines:

1. that the district's budget does not permit the district to purchase a bus that
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- has three-point seat belts; or
2. if the warranty for the bus would be voided if the bus was retrofitted with three-point seat belts.

Note that a school district may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source. If your school board determines that your district's budget is insufficient to purchase school buses with three-point seat belts, your district is required to submit to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and present in a public meeting of the Board a report that includes the number of buses operated by or contracted for use by the district that:

- do not have seat belts;
- have two-point seat belts;
- have three-point seat belts; and
- the estimated cost to the district to equip each bus that is operated by or contracted for use by the district with three-point seat belts that does not have them.

SB546 - This bill, which was passed in the regular session of the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, applies to the requirement for school buses to include three-point seat belts for each passenger, **regardless of model year**. The legislation requires the TEA to compile all the information collected by the school districts and to calculate the total amount of financial need for all school districts to come to compliance with this legislation. The TEA is also directed to summarize the information and provide it to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature by January 1, 2027. We are awaiting guidance on how TEA wants this information to be reported. School districts are expected to comply with the three-point seat belt requirement on all school buses before September 1, 2029.

**Our school bus fleet consists of 36 yellow school buses.**

11 buses are equipped with 3 point seatbelts.

1 bus is equipped with lap belts.

24 buses are NOT equipped with any seat belts.

7 buses without seatbelts are model year 2008. 2 of these units have already been identified for auction, pending posting. The other 5 would need to be evaluated for structural integrity to see if the floor would support the retrofit of seats. Discussions with OEM, Original Equipment Manufacturer's, has them stating school buses older than model year 2010 could NOT be certified/cleared to transport students post retrofit. The concerns regarding weight, drilling of new holes, etc.... has led them to this statement.

Plans for these 2008 model year buses were to have them staged at the new High School location for student shuttling. With our current growth and replacement plan, we can continue with the plan to utilize them for shuttling while the athletic complex is built and then cycle these 5 units out of rotation before the September 1, 2029 deadline.

The other 18 units span from model year 2011 to 2024. Below is the current pricing and estimated timelines.

COMPANY	EST TIMELINE	EST COST
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Rush Bus Sales (Bluebirds)	2 Units - Will not complete retrofits. Liability concerns.	N/A
Longhorn Bus Sales (Internationals)	14 Units - No timeline provided.	\$447,477.80
Thomas Bus Texas (Thomas')	2 Units - No timeline provided.	\$40,979.04
Buck's Wheels	18 Units - 6 weeks for all seats to arrive, once purchase order provided. Then 4 buses a week until the job is completed.	*2 Bluebird \$41,699.04 *2 Thomas / 14 Longhorn \$541,280.32

<b>Year</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>15yr replacement</b>
2008	7	International	2023
2011	2	Bluebirds	2026
2013	1	International	2028
2015	1	International	2030
2016	2	International	2031
2017	3	International	2032
2018	2	International	2033
2022	1	International	2037
2023	3	International/(1)Thomas	2038
2024	3	International/(1)Thomas	2038

In December 2024 the school board approved the purchase of 2 general education buses and 2 special education buses. These units are not in production at this time but once completed, delivered, and accepted they would replace the 2008's. At that time we would come back to the school board with a recommendation to auction the 2008's and then identify other buses (that can handle the retrofit) to stage at the high school while waiting for the athletic field completion.

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**D.**

**E. Comments Received:**

☒ LT

☐ DEIC

☐ Other

All agenda items are reviewed by the Superintendent's Leadership Team.

**F.**

**Administrative  
Recommendation:**

None - Information Only

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**G. Fiscal Impact and Cost:**

☒ Budget

☐ Bond

**Amount:** Pending vendor and timeline

☐ Grant/Special  
Funds

☒ Other

**H.**

**Exhibits:** N/A

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**I.**

**Action:** N/A

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