



**Meeting Date:** April 23, 2026

**Submitted By:** Daniel Brooks  
**Title:** Assistant Superintendent

**Agenda Item:** Consider and take action regarding approving the attached Resolution of Financial Inability Related to SB 546, affirming that Judson ISD cannot fully meet the September 1, 2029, deadline due to financial constraints and adopting the district's phased plan for long-term compliance.

## CONSENT ITEM

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Resolution of Financial Inability Related to SB 546, affirming that Judson ISD cannot fully meet the September 1, 2029, deadline due to financial constraints and adopting the district's phased plan for long-term compliance.

### **IMPACT/RATIONALE:**

Senate Bill 546 (89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session) updates the Texas Transportation Code to require that all school buses transporting students be equipped with three-point (lap-shoulder) seat belts for each seating position, including the driver.

SB 546 establishes the following requirements:

Effective September 1, 2025:

- The new statute goes into effect
- School districts must complete a detailed inventory and cost report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by the end of the 2025-2026 school year, identifying:
  - Number of buses with three-point belts
  - Number of buses with two-point belts
  - Number of buses with no belts
  - Estimated retrofit costs
- Full compliance deadline: September 1, 2029

All buses used to transport students must be equipped with three-point seat belts unless the district adopts a Resolution of Financial Inability, as permitted by statute. This resolution must state that the district cannot meet the requirements due to significant financial hardship and must outline a reasonable plan toward compliance.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

**Approval/Disapproval**



## **SB 546 Seat Belt Requirements- Financial Inability Determination Judson Independent School District Board of Trustees**

**WHEREAS:** Senate Bill 546 (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 operator, with full compliance required no later than September 1, 2029;

**WHEREAS:** Judson ISD currently operates a fleet that includes buses that do not meet the newly mandated safety equipment requirements; and

**WHEREAS:** the estimated cost to replace or retrofit the non-compliant buses creates a substantial financial burden on the District, and current budget conditions do not permit full compliance within the required time frame; and

**WHEREAS:** SB 546 authorizes a school district to determine, through Board action, that the District's budget does not permit the purchase of compliant buses or retrofitting of non-compliant buses at this time, provided that required reporting to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is completed; and

**WHEREAS:** the Board of Trustees has reviewed the fleet inventory, cost projections, and multi-year capital replacement requirements and finds that full compliance by the statutory deadline is not financially feasible under current funding conditions; and

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Board of Trustees of Judson ISD hereby determines that the District's current budget does not permit full compliance with SB 546 by September 1, 2029.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to submit the required SB 546 reporting to the Texas Education Agency, including the fleet inventory, cost estimates, and this Resolution.
3. The Board further directs the Superintendent to develop a phased, fiscally responsible replacement and/or retrofit plan and to provide updates to the Board as part of annual budget planning.

Adopted and approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by the Board of Trustees of Judson Independent School District.

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Monica Ryan, President

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Lesley Lee, Secretary

