

SUBJECT: Public Report Concerning School Bus Seat Belts Pursuant to SB 546 and Texas Transportation Code Section 547.701. – *For Information Only*

BACKGROUND: SB 546 amends Texas Transportation Code Section 547.701 to require that school buses operated by or contracted for use by the district be outfitted with three-point seat belts by the end of the 2025-2026 school year, with limited exceptions. While SB 546 eliminated an exception for buses purchased by a school district that is model year 2017 or earlier, it adds exceptions for this requirement if equipping the bus with the required three-point seat belt would void the vehicle’s warranty, or the Board determines that the district’s current budget does not permit the district to purchase buses with three-point seat belts. For school boards making this determination, SB 546 specifies that the board must present certain information about its buses and estimated costs for replacement at a public board meeting and submit the corresponding information to TEA before the end of the 2025-2026 school year. SB 546 also requires TEA to prepare a summary of the information for the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature on or before January 1, 2027. This report covers the following topics for school buses operated by and/or contracted for use by PISD:

1. The number of buses that are not equipped with seat belts;
2. The number of buses that are equipped with two-point seat belts;
3. The number of buses that are equipped with three-point seat belts; and
4. The estimated cost to the district to equip each bus with a three-point seatbelt.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

CABINET MEMBER: Kevin Fornof

CONTACT PERSON: Kevin Fornof
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BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2026