



Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Meeting Date: May 11, 2026

Agenda Item: Consider and act on
to Approve and Adopt the Resolution Finding Compliance with SB 546 is not financially feasible

Item Type:

- New
- Update/Revision
- Continuation/Renewal
- Mandated Action

Item Purpose:

- Information
- Recognition
- Student Learning & Support
- District Business & Operations
- Board Policy & Compliance
- Other _____

Submitted By:

Scott Warstler

Background Information:

Not later than the end of the 2025-2026 school year, [Senate Bill 546](#) (89th Regular Legislative Session) requires school systems that make a budget limitation determination under [Transportation Code, §547.701\(e\)\(1\)](#), to submit to TEA the estimated cost to equip each bus operated by and/or contracted for use by the district with three-point seat belts.

Budget Consideration:

Expenditure Amount:

\$11,699,739

Expenditure Type:

- Recurring
- One-Time
- Budgeted
- Unbudgeted
- N/A

Funding Source:

- General Fund
- Child Nutrition Fund
- Capital Fund
- Grant Fund
- Other: _____
- N/A

Budget Owner: Scott Warstler

Supporting Documentation:

This study is being conducted in response to Senate Bill 546, which amended Transportation Code §547.701(f) and requires that all school buses transporting children be equipped with three-point seat belts for every passenger.

Purpose	Description	Quantity
In accordance with this legislation, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will collect the following information from each school district:	The number of buses not equipped with seat belts.	166
	The number of buses equipped with two-point seat belts.	77
	The number of buses equipped with three-point seat belts.	136
	The estimated cost to equip all buses (replace each older bus)—whether district-owned or contracted—with three-point seat belts.	\$41,874,293.00
To prepare for report submission, please have cost estimates readily available for upload. If your district has determined that purchasing buses equipped with seatbelts is not financially feasible, you must also upload the agenda or minutes from the public board meeting where the following were presented:	The number of buses without seatbelts.	166
	The number of buses with two-point seatbelts.	77
	The number of buses with three-point seatbelts.	136
	The estimated cost to retrofit each bus with three-point seatbelts.	\$11,699,739.00

Recommendation:

We recommend a motion to Act to Approve and Adopt the Resolution Finding Compliance with SB 546 is Not Financially Feasible.

Comments:

TEA will be launching estimated cost reporting through Sentinel starting on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Reporting will conclude at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2026. School systems are required to submit the information requested, with supporting documentation.

In addition to required reporting to TEA, if a school system board has determined that its budget does not permit the district to purchase or contract buses that are equipped with three-point seat belts (required in [Transportation Code, §547.701](#)), the following must be presented in a public meeting:

- The number of buses operated by or contracted for use by the school system that are not equipped with seat belts, the number that are equipped with two-point seat belts, and the number that are equipped with three-point seat belts; and
- The estimated cost to equip each bus operated by and/or contracted for use by the school system with three-point seat belts

As part of the required estimated cost reporting, **school systems will be able to participate in a grant opportunity related to seat belt installation.** Details pertaining to the grant will be the subject of a future TAA.