



# SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: March 16, 2026

Agenda Section: Report

Agenda Item Title: Texas Senate Bill 546 (SB 546) School Bus Passenger Seat Belt Compliance

From: Andy A. Rocha, Executive Director of Operations  
Carlos Garza, Director of Transportation

Description: In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 546, the District is required to: Conduct an annual review regarding school bus passenger seat belt compliance for applicable buses. Submit required data to the Texas Education Agency. Present findings to the Board of Trustees/Board of Managers in a public meeting. Certify completion of the School Safety and Security Audit using the Sentinel system.

Additionally, under Texas Education Code 37.108 and the requirements of the Texas School Safety Center, districts must complete and certify their safety and security audit through the Sentinel platform.

The District has completed:

- The SB 546 School Bus Seat Belt Study
- Transportation fleet compliance review
- Cost analysis for retrofitting or replacement

Historical Data: N/A

Recommendation: Report Only

Purchasing Director  
and Approval Date: N/A

Funding Budget Code  
and Amount: N/A

# Texas SB 546 - School Bus Passenger Seat Belt Compliance



March 16, 2026

# Purpose



- This summary provides the Board of Managers with an overview of Texas Senate Bill 546 (SB 546) and the District's compliance responsibilities related to school bus passenger safety and three-point seat belt requirements.

# Background

SB 546 intends to strengthen school transportation safety requirements in Texas by requiring school districts to:



- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of school buses



- Identify which buses are equipped with three-point seat belts



- Develop cost estimates for retrofitting or replacing non-compliant buses



- Present findings to the Board in a public meeting



- Submit required documentation to the Texas Education Agency (TEA)



# Current Bus Fleet

## 2025-2026 School Bus Fleet



# Compliance Timeline



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

All newly purchased buses transporting 22+ passengers must be equipped with three-point seat belts (with limited statutory exceptions).



**2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

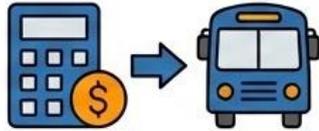
District must present the SB 546 report to the Board and submit required reporting to TEA by May 29, 2026.



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2029**

Deadline for full fleet compliance with three-point seat belt requirements.

# How Districts May Fund Compliance



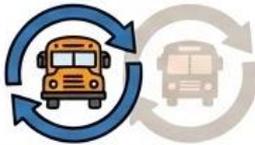
## Local Transportation Budgets

Allocate existing district funds and resources.



## Bond Programs

Voter-approved funding for large-scale capital projects.



## Bus Replacement Cycles

Scheduled upgrades and modernization of the fleet.



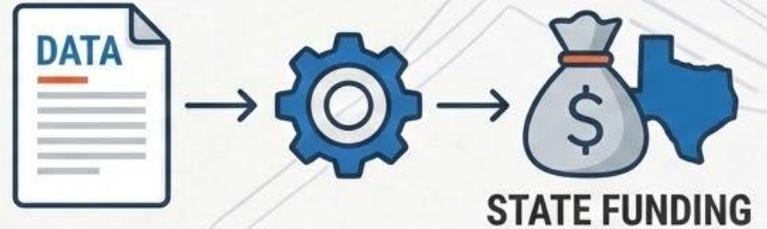
## Possible Grants or Donations

External financial support, gifts, and specialized funding.

# Future Legislative Considerations



TEA will compile district cost data and report to the Legislature.



This data may inform potential state funding in future legislative sessions.

**Questions?**