

Uvalde CISD Senate Bill 546

Reporting on School Bus Seatbelt Cost

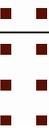
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Esequiel De La Fuente - Executive Director of Facilities & Operations
Gloria Gonzales - Transportation Coordinator
Carina Esperza - Financial Support for the Transportation Department
Patricia Salazar - Bus Driver Trainer/Dispatch/Bus Driver
Rachel Fernandez - Field Trip Coordinator/Dispatch
Samuel Barboza - Lead Mechanic/Bus Driver
Guadalupe Medrano - Mechanic/Bus Driver

Senate Bill 546

Under Senate Bill 546, every Texas school bus must be equipped with a three-point seat belt for every passenger and the driver by September 1, 2029. The law phases in gradually, giving school districts time to plan and report their progress.

As part of this legislation, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will gather data from each school district regarding their current bus fleet and the estimated cost to retrofit the buses with three-point seat belts.



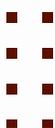
Steps 1-2 of Senate Bill 546

Step 1:

The board must first decide whether purchasing buses equipped with 3-point seat belts fits within the district's budget and plan for the purchase. If the board determines it is financially feasible and plans to proceed, reporting can be completed to TEA. If not, continue to Step 2

Step 2:

Identify the number of buses in the fleet (district owned) that fall into each category: fully equipped with 3-point seat belts, equipped only with lap belts (2-point), mix of 3-point and lap belts and some seats with 3-point, and others with no seat belts



Steps 3-4 of Senate Bill 546

Step 3:

Present in a public board meeting the number of buses operated by the district that: are not equipped with seat belts, are equipped only with two-point seat belts are equipped with three-point seat belts, and the estimated cost to equip all buses with three-point seat belts

Step 4:

Report to TEA the counts, costs, and board documentation by May 30, 2026

Replacement Schedule

- We currently have 19 propane buses. 17 diesel buses and 1 activity bus.
- Replace 5 buses every year for the next five years. In the next five years, UCISD will have 25 new buses.
- Average cost per bus is **\$161,215.00**. 5 buses per year = **\$806,075.00**
- **Total Estimated Cost for 37 buses = \$5,964,955.00**.

Transportation Data and Estimated Cost

- We currently have 6 buses that have 3 point seat belts. Buses where purchased in 2024.
- We have 37 buses that need to have 3 point seat belts added. All 37 buses were purchased in the 2014-2015 school year.
- Written Quote: Average cost of seat belt modification per bus is **\$29,778.55**.
- **Total Estimated Cost for 37 buses = \$1,101,806.35**

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THANK YOU