

# 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**

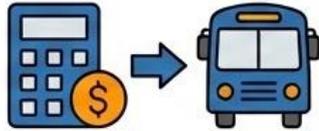
District must present the SB 546 report to the Board and submit required reporting to TEA by May 29, 2026.



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2029**

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

# How Districts May Fund Compliance



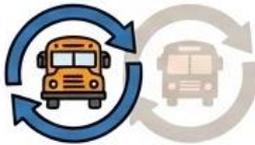
## Local Transportation Budgets

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?**