

Manor Independent School District

Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda Item

May 18, 2026

CONSENT ITEM SHEET

RE: Consideration and Approval Regarding Student Transportation Safety Compliance and the Anticipated Costs Associated With Seat Belt Retrofitting and/or Fleet Replacement

District Goal 5: FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE- By 2026, Manor ISD will proactively provide facilities to ensure 100% of scholars will have safe, well-maintained, environmentally sustainable, and community accessible facilities.

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Background Information:

At the April 20, 2026, regular Board meeting, the administration informed the Board of Trustees of the requirements under Senate Bill 546 regarding new school bus seat belt regulations. Administration provided an overview of the district's transportation fleet, including the number of buses currently in compliance and the number that would require retrofitting, and shared estimated costs associated with meeting the requirements. As part of that presentation, a financial analysis was also presented to evaluate the feasibility of implementing the required seat belt systems.

Texas law requires school districts to meet specific seat belt safety standards in district-owned school buses, and the Board of Trustees must determine by May 29, 2026, whether the district can comply with these requirements. If the Board determines that the district is unable to comply, state law requires submission of documentation to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), including the meeting agenda, minutes, and the Board's formal decision.

Recommendation:

Based on the financial analysis, including the lack of available local funds, limited state funding options, and minimal flexibility within the Interest & Sinking (I&S) fund, the administration recommends that the Board of Trustees determine that compliance with Senate Bill 546 is not financially feasible at this time.

Administration further recommends that, upon making this determination, the Board direct administration to submit all required documentation to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), including the meeting agenda, minutes, and the Board's formal determination.

Fiscal Implications:

The updated estimated cost to retrofit 34 existing buses with compliant three-point seat belt systems is \$1,139,000. Based on these constraints, implementation is not financially feasible without adversely affecting district operations.

Motion Language:

"I move that the Board of Trustees determine that compliance with Senate Bill 546 school bus seat belt requirements is not financially feasible at this time and direct administration to submit the required documentation to the Texas Education Agency, including the meeting agenda, minutes, and this formal determination."

Joe Mendez, COO

Contact Person

Dr. Robert Sormani

Approved by Superintendent