

SB 546



Senate Bill 546

SB 546, as passed during the 89th Texas Legislature, amends Transportation Code 547.701 to **strengthen standards for school buses transporting students by requiring all buses to be equipped with three-point seat belts for each passenger.**



Senate Bill 546

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.



Senate Bill 546

If a Board determines that the district's budget does not allow for equipping all buses with three-point seat belts, the following information must be reported in a public board meeting:

- **7 are not equipped** with seat belts (2014-2018 models)
- **0** are equipped with two-point seat belts
- **15 are fully equipped** with seat belts

The estimated cost to the district to equip the remaining 7 buses with three-point seat belts is **\$227,666**.



Senate Bill 546

Pathway to Reporting



Senate Bill 546

- The board is responsible for determining whether the district's budget can support purchasing buses equipped with three-point seat belts, as required by Texas Transportation Code §547.701(e)(1).
- This determination and the relevant Board agenda and minutes must be reported via Sentinel by May 29, 2026.
- A grant opportunity will be made available to eligible school systems after reporting closes.
 - TEA will provide the total amount of financial assistance needed and provide to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and each member of legislature by January 1, 2027

Questions & Comments

