

Brownwood Independent School District
SB 546 Seat Belt Costs Reporting Information
Board Report – December 8, 2025

Overview

Senate Bill 546 requires school districts to annually report information regarding the presence and cost of 3-point (lap-shoulder) seat belts on school buses. The following report summarizes Brownwood ISD's current bus fleet compliance, ownership status, board determinations, and cost estimates for retrofitting buses to meet state requirements outlined in Texas Transportation Code §547.701.

Bus Ownership and Contract Status

Brownwood ISD owns all the buses for the transportation of students.
Ownership Category Selected: Owned

Bus Compliance Status

District buses used to transport students are not fully equipped with the required 3-point seat belts under Texas Transportation Code §547.701.

Seat Belt Configuration by Bus Type (Owned Buses)

| Status Category | Number of Buses |
|--|-----------------|
| Fully equipped with 3-point seat belts | 7 |
| Equipped only with lap belts (2-point) | N/A |
| No passenger seat belts | 15 |
| Mix of 3-point and lap belts | N/A |
| Some 3-point belts, others no belts | N/A |
| Some lap belts, others no belts | N/A |

Total Owned Buses Reported: 22

Board Determination

SB 546 requires districts to determine whether purchasing buses equipped with 3-point seat belts fits within the district's budget capacity and planning.

Cost Estimates for Retrofitting Buses

Brownwood ISD obtained cost estimates to retrofit 9 of the currently owned buses that do not meet 3-point seat belt requirements.

- **Total Retrofit Cost Estimate: \$294,856.89**

During the compliance review, it was determined that 6 buses in the current fleet do not qualify for a seatback replacement due to the original manufacturing design. These buses were built with a different seat frame that does not support retrofitting seatbacks alone.

Required Upgrades for Non-Compliant Buses

To bring the six identified buses into compliance, the following actions would be necessary:

- Removal and replacement of the **entire floorboard assembly**,
- Installation of **completely new seating units**, and
- Installation of **3-point seat belt systems** compatible with the new frames.

The average cost to complete these upgrades is approximately \$70,000 per bus.

- **Total Retrofit Cost Estimate: \$70,000 × 6 = \$420,000.00**

Total Estimated Cost:

The estimate reflects the total project cost to install compliant 3-point seat belt systems on all buses within the fleet that lack them.

\$294,856.89 + \$420,000.00 = \$714,856.89
