



Senate Bill 546: School Bus Seat Belt Compliance Overview

Senate Bill 546 – School Bus Seat Belt Compliance

- Texas Senate Bill 546 amended Texas Transportation Code 547.701
- Requires three-point seat belts for every passenger and driver on all school buses
- Requires public board presentation when full compliance is not immediately financially feasible
- Requires reporting to TEA through Sentinel by May 29, 2026

Board Role Under SB 546

- Board must determine financial feasibility of purchasing buses
- If the Board determines that the current budget does not allow for the purchase of buses, it must review fleet seat belt status in a public meeting
- The district must report:
 1. Number of buses with no seat belts
 2. Number of buses with two-point (lap) seat belts
 3. Number of buses with three-point seat belts
 4. Estimated cost to reach full three-point compliance

Inventory and Cost Estimates

Total fleet (all buses)	39
Already equipped with 3-point seat belts	8
Contingency buses (excluded from retrofit plan)	4
Buses requiring retrofit or replacement	27

- Fully equipped with 3-point seat belts: **8 Buses**
- Equipped with 2-point (lap) seat belts: **8 Buses**
- Are not equipped with seat belts: **19 Buses**
- Estimated cost to equip 27 buses with 3-point seat belts: **\$586,372**
 - *Note: Freight charges are not included*
- Estimated cost to purchase 27 buses with 3-point seat belts : **\$4,392,800**

Questions



Discussion