

**Review SB 546, which states every Texas school bus must be equipped with a
three- point seat belt systems for every passenger and the driver by September 1, 2029
March 23, 2026**

1. Board goals:

DOMAIN 3: Positive School Culture; Safety and Security

DOMAIN 4: Alignment of Financial Well Being with Student Achievement

2. Background:

During the 89th Legislative Session, the State of Texas enacted Texas Senate Bill 546, which requires that school districts provide school buses which are equipped with three-point seatbelt systems for each passenger seat, or to vote not to purchase new buses if they can not afford the expenditure.

Uvalde CISD's current fleet includes buses purchased in 2014 that were manufactured prior to the implementation of this requirement and therefore do not include seat belts. In order to comply with current state law, the district would need approval to purchase 37 new school buses equipped with factory-installed, three-point seatbelts. However, the district is not currently in a financial position to purchase 37 new buses. For districts that do not have the funds to purchase new school buses, boards must vote not to purchase the new buses due to funding constraints.

3. Process:

The Transportation Department evaluated the current fleet and determined the need to replace 37 buses that do not meet the new seatbelt requirement. Proposals were requested from qualified school bus vendors that meet Texas state specifications and include factory-installed three-point seatbelts. The cost of 37 new buses with seatbelts is \$5,964,955.

4. Fiscal Impact:

\$5,964,955 from Local Funds

5. Recommendation:

Administration recommends that due to the lack of funding and the current financial conditions in the district, the Board approves NOT purchasing 37 school buses equipped with three-point seat belts to replace current buses.

6. Required:

Information only

7. Contact person:

Zeke De La Fuente