

Grand Prairie ISD Board of Trustees

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Action

Consent

Topic: Senate Bill 546 – Three-Point Seat Belts for all Buses

Submitted by: Pablo F. Orozco, Executive Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Approved for Transmittal: 

Board Meeting Date: 5/14/2026

Recommendation:

The Administration recommends that the Board determine that full implementation of Senate Bill 546 retrofits is not financially feasible at this time and approve a phased compliance strategy that prioritizes replacement of aging buses with factory-equipped, three-point seat belts while deferring full fleet retrofitting. This approach allows the District to remain aligned with statutory requirements while continuing to evaluate future funding opportunities and additional state guidance related to retrofit specifications.

Rationale:

Senate Bill 546 requires three-point seat belts on school buses, requiring the District to evaluate retrofit costs. The estimated cost is approximately \$2.9 million. Additionally, the State has not provided clear retrofit guidance, creating uncertainty around compliance and potential future costs.

Budget Information:

Estimated Retrofit Cost: \$2,896,506

Special Education Buses: ~\$21,312 per bus and General Education Buses: ~\$40,979 per bus

Board Policy Reference and Compliance:

Texas Transportation Code § 547.701(f)

Senate Bill 546 – School Bus Passenger Safety Requirements