

# Hitchcock Independent School District

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2025

**Presented by:** Dr. Darryl J. Henson, Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Subject:** SB 546

### Action Item

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Texas Senate Bill 546 (SB 546) mandates that, with limited exceptions, all school buses transporting students in the state, including those used by Hitchcock ISD, must be equipped with three-point seat belts for every passenger. While the bill became effective in 2025, the full compliance deadline is set for September 1, 2029, giving the district time for fleet modification or replacement. The most immediate requirement for the Hitchcock ISD Board of Trustees is the potential need to assess and report on its current fleet and financial ability to comply. Specifically, if the Board determines the district's budget does not permit the immediate purchase of compliant buses, it must prepare a detailed report on non-compliant buses and the estimated cost for full compliance. This report must then be presented at a public board meeting and submitted to TEA by the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This measure enhances student safety while ensuring financial transparency regarding necessary fleet upgrades.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:**

I move that the Board approve the recommendation from the Hitchcock ISD Police Department as presented.

#### **POLICY AUTHORIZATION:**

N/A

#### **CONTACT PERSON:**

Brian Rusk, Chief of Police

#### **FUNDING SOURCE:**

N/A

#### **ENCLOSURES:**

N/A