



Hitchcock Independent School District

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Texas Senate Bill 546, passed in 2025, requires all school buses to be equipped with three-point seat belts, with a phased implementation and a deadline of September 1, 2029, for full compliance. It mandates that school districts report the estimated costs to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and establishes a reporting period from November 11, 2025, to May 29, 2026, to collect this data. The bill also includes exemptions for older buses and situations where budget constraints or warranty issues prevent immediate compliance.

In compliance with SB 546, all Hitchcock ISD buses were inspected and 9 were found to be non-compliant with the three-point restraint requirement. A quote was obtained to upgrade the existing buses to the three-point standard.

4X77 passenger busses \$127,033.90

4X71 passenger busses \$131,224.08

1X48 Passenger bus \$20,938.32

In addition to these upgraded restraints, two buses require new subflooring due to rot at a cost of \$10,000 each. The total estimate to complete the required upgrades is \$279,196.30,

The process requires that this report be presented to the Board of Trustees to determine if the cost of the upgrades is fiscally feasible within the district's budget.

Attached to this report is the quote provided by Buck's Wheel & Equipment.