

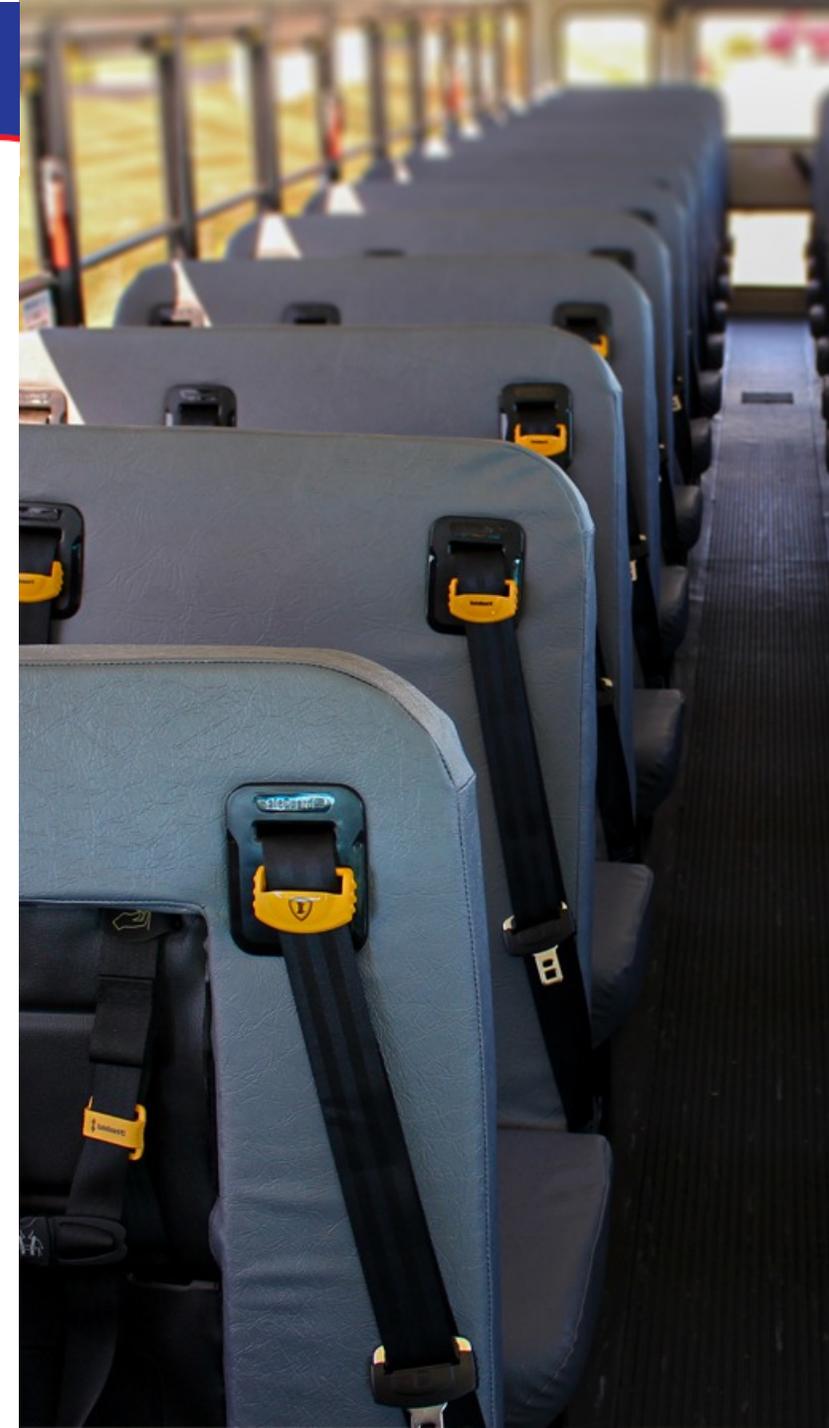
**GREGORY-PORTLAND ISD**

**SB 546  
School Bus  
Seat Belts**



## SB 546 Overview

- Passed during 89th Texas Legislative Session, amending Texas Transportation Code §547.701
- Requires **all** school buses be equipped with 3-point seat belts for **all** passengers, including the driver
  - Previously, model year 2017 or earlier was excluded
- Districts unable to afford immediate upgrades must present information in a public meeting detailing costs and plans
- May accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source to implement the requirements
- Buses in operation must meet compliance by **September 1, 2029**



- (19) School Buses requiring retrofit or replacement are:
  - 8 - 15 years old
  - Some have exceeded recommended useful life
  - Currently use **9** of these buses for routes/field trips
  - **5** buses are planned as back ups
  - **5** buses are planned to be phased out
- Recommended school bus useful life:
  - 10 - 15 years **or** 150,000 - 250,000 miles, whichever comes first



## Cost Estimates

- (9) buses: **\$21,500 - \$41,000** per Thomas bus to retrofit (without floor reconstruction)
- (5) buses: **\$33,000 - \$35,000** per International bus to retrofit (without floor reconstruction)
- (2) Microbuses: **\$18,000** per Ford microbus to retrofit (without floor reconstruction)
- Average cost of new school bus: **\$160,000**

**Total cost estimate: \$580,000 retrofit**

- (3) buses: Blue Bird Retrofit is unavailable





## Fleet Overview

| Vehicle Size           | Total # Buses | Equipped w/<br>3-point Seat<br>Belt | Equipped w/<br>2-point Seat<br>Belts | No Seat Belts |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 90 Passenger           | 2             | 1                                   | 0                                    | 1             |
| 71-78 Passenger Reg Ed | 29            | 15                                  | 0                                    | 14            |
| 33-51 Passenger SPED   | 4             | 2                                   | 2                                    | 0             |
| 14 Passenger           | 5             | 3                                   | 2                                    | 0             |
| 9 Passenger            | 1             | 1                                   | 0                                    | 0             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>41</b>     | <b>22</b>                           | <b>4</b>                             | <b>15</b>     |

# GREGORY-PORTLAND ISD



Thomas Bus



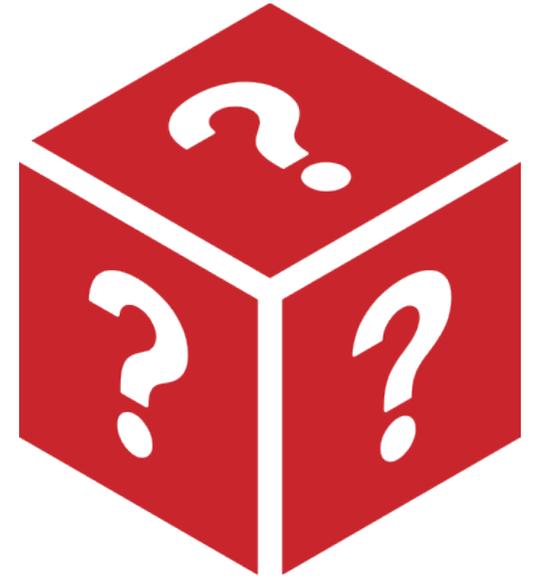
Blue Bird Bus (Not Eligible)



International Bus

## The unknown...

- Will State funding opportunities become available to aid with retrofit or replacement costs?
- Will there be flexibility on the compliance deadline after data collection is complete?
- Who will safety certify the retrofit of the bus seats?  
currently vendors have not stepped up



**Questions?**