

CISD Board Agenda Item Synopsis

CISD Board Mission: Celina ISD will educate students at the highest levels, empower them to succeed, develop their leadership potential, instill faith-based traditional values, and prepare them to become contributing members of society.

Subject: Senate Bill 546: School Bus Seat Belt Compliance

Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

Submitted by: Jason Johnston, Ed.D., Senior Chief

Goals		
<p style="text-align: center;">Core Principles Community · Excellence · Innovation Leadership · Stewardship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Learner Experience Love the learner, drive the rigor Responsible for one’s own learning Interdependent self-managers</p>	✓ -	1. We will provide and support a safe, civil and collaborative culture.
	-	2. We will continuously provide and support effective teaching in every classroom.
	-	3. We will provide and support a guaranteed and viable curriculum.
	-	4. We will continue to foster a love of reading and commit to continual growth in childhood literacy.
	-	5. We will foster strong numeracy skills and commit to continual growth in math success.
	-	6. We will provide targeted strategies and practices to prepare students for post-secondary education, career readiness, and military participation.
	-	7. We will attract, recruit, develop, and retain high-quality professional staff.

Background Information:

During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 546 was enacted requiring school buses used to transport students to be equipped with three-point (lap and shoulder) seat belts. The statute provides that if a school district determines compliance is not financially feasible, the Board of Trustees may make that determination in a public meeting and submit the required cost analysis and documentation to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), while continuing to work toward full compliance within the state’s implementation timeline.

Celina ISD has conducted a review of its current transportation fleet and the projected costs associated with retrofitting or replacing buses to meet SB 546 requirements. Based on this analysis, immediate full implementation would require a significant financial investment that is not currently budgeted and would impact other district priorities.

Considerations:

- Total number of buses requiring retrofit or replacement
- Estimated cost of compliance (retrofit versus replacement)
- Impact on the district’s general fund and long-range financial plan
- Alignment with bond planning and fleet replacement cycles
- The fact that a portion of the current fleet requiring retrofit is scheduled for retirement prior to full implementation, reducing the need for near-term investment in buses nearing end-of-life
- State reporting requirements and timelines

Policy: NA

Budgetary Impact: Dispersed over 3 years

Recommendation: Administration recommends that the Board of Trustees approve a determination that compliance with SB 546 is not financially feasible at this time and authorize submission of the required cost analysis and documentation to TEA.