



ALEDO ISD BOARD MEETING TEMPLATE

MEETING DATE: April 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Transportation Update Regarding Senate Bill 546

PRESENTER: Earl Husfeld, Chief Financial Officer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Senate Bill (SB) 546, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, amends Texas Transportation Code Section 547.701 which requires that school buses be outfitted with certain equipment.
- Previous law required a bus operated by, or contracted for use by, a school district for the transportation of children to be equipped with a three-point seat belt for each passenger, including the operator.
- However, SB 546 eliminated an exception for a bus purchased by a school district that is a model year 2017 or earlier.
- SB 546 requirements for seat belts do not apply to a bus:
 - If the Board of Trustees determines that a district's budget does not permit the District to purchase a bus that is equipped with the required seat belts.
 - For which the warranty would become void if the bus were equipped to comply with the law.
- In a public meeting, specific information must be presented to the Board of Trustees regarding a seat belt inventory of district buses that meet, and don't meet, the new requirement, the cost to retrofit nonconforming buses, and the cost to replace each nonconforming bus.
- After the SB 546 presentation to the Board of Trustees, the District is required to submit the board meeting report and board meeting agenda and minutes to the Texas Education Agency no later than May 29, 2026.
- Districts are not required to be fully in compliance with the three-point seat belt standard until September 1, 2029.

FISCAL INFORMATION:

The District's General Fund budget does not contain sufficient available funds to become compliant with the requirements in Senate Bill 546.

ATTACHMENTS:

Senate Bill 546 Report, Memo from Blue Bird Body Company, Buck's Wheel & Equipment Quotes

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

None - Information Report