

**Aledo ISD Transportation
Senate Bill (SB) 546 Report
April 20, 2026**

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.

In the District's case, all of the buses that do not currently have 3-point seat belts are not eligible for retrofit because a retrofit would void the manufacturer's warranty for the buses. Therefore, to be compliant with SB 546, the District must buy new buses at an estimated cost of \$8,950,000.

Districts are not required to be fully in compliance with the three-point seat belt standard until September 1, 2029.

The following specific information must be presented to the Board of Trustees in a public meeting.

Bus Seat Belt Inventory		
Description	Number of Buses	Percent of Buses
3-point (lap/shoulder) seat belts	34	39.5%
2-point (lap) seat belts	28	32.6%
no seat belts	24	27.9%
Totals	86	100.0%
Buses out of compliance with SB 546	52	60.5%

Estimated Cost to Retrofit Buses Needing 3-Point Seat Belts **			
Bus Passengers	Number of Buses	Est. Cost per Bus	Estimated Total
Blue Bird 77	32	\$40,000	\$1,280,000
Blue Bird 71	11	\$38,000	\$418,000
Blue Bird 54	6	\$28,000	\$168,000
Blue Bird 43	3	\$23,000	\$69,000
Totals	52		\$1,935,000
** Blue Bird buses are not eligible for retrofit. Refer to Blue Bird memo.			

Estimated Cost to Replace Buses Needing 3-Point Seat Belts			
Bus Passengers	Number of Buses	Est. Cost per Bus	Estimated Total
Blue Bird 77	32	\$180,000	\$5,760,000
Blue Bird 71	11	\$170,000	\$1,870,000
Blue Bird 54	6	\$150,000	\$900,000
Blue Bird 43	3	\$140,000	\$420,000
Totals	52		\$8,950,000



BLUE BIRD

January 8, 2026
Dealer Memo 26-01

To: Blue Bird Dealers
From: Sumanth Balesh, Director of Product Certification and Compliance
Subject: **Blue Bird Policy on School Bus Seating Alteration**

Blue Bird Body Company certifies all new buses sold in the United States and Canada are compliant with all applicable FMVSS and CMVSS regulations in effect at the time of build through rigorous engineering, testing and development. FMVSS Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR 571.222 and CMVSS 222 222 (School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection) and 49 CFR § 571.210 and CMVSS 210 (Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages) apply to the final stage vehicle manufacturer and those who may alter a vehicle, including any vehicle repair businesses. Modifications that render a safety feature “inoperable” are prohibited by Section 30122 of the United States Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Because our certifications rely on new product and OEM assembly processes, we do not and are unable to sanction or certify compliance of any aftermarket installations or modifications made to the bus that changes the original seating configuration other than to designated convertible seats done per the Blue Bird and seat manufacturer instructions. Those who perform these modifications are solely responsible, and should conduct their own evaluations to ensure compliance with all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations.

In summary, Blue Bird does not recommend or affirm the effectiveness of any alteration made after delivery to the seats installed in our buses or seating configurations. Furthermore, no Blue Bird-manufactured seat, Blue Bird-installed IMMI seat or C.E. White (CEW) non-convertible seat may be altered or replaced by a different type of seat, belts added, or relocated from its position as certified in the original floor plan.

Sumanth Balesh

Director of Product Certification & Compliance

BUCK'S WHEEL
& EQUIPMENT
5101 N. MAIN ST
FORT WORTH, TX 76179
PHONE 817-332-1228
FAX 817-332-1817



Quote

Date	Quote #
12/5/2025	36044
Rep	CME

Name / Address
WYLIE ISD 6251 BUFFLO GAP RD ABILENE TX 79606

Ship To
WYLIE ISD ATTN: DEAN PHIPPS / BUS BARN 4502B ANTILLEY RD ABILENE TX 79606

UNIT #	Customer E-mail	Customer Phone	Customer Fax
	dcan.phipps@wyliebulldog...	325-692-8351	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
PARTS	NEX GEN, 39" SEAT ASSEMBLY ONLY WITH (3) 3-POINT SEAT BELTS, GRAY FIREBLOCK VINYL	26	950.25	24,706.50
LABOR	REMOVE ALL EXISTING SEATS AND HARDWARE, INSTALL NEW 3PT SEAT BELT SEATS WITH NEW MOUNTING HARDWARE	1	6,500.00	6,500.00
PARTS	RETROFIT MOUNTING KIT	26	36.52	949.52
SHOP PARTS	SHOP PARTS / MISC. EXPENSE HARDWARE / WASTE FEE	1	650.00	650.00
LABOR 909	REMOVE AND REPLACE SUBFLOOR AND VINYL FLOORING	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
	*****FLOOR MUST BE REPLACED DUE TO LIABILITY REASONS PER THE SEAT MANUFACTURER*****			
	*****THIS IS A GENERIC QUOTE FOR A 77 PASSENGER BUS*****			
	*****PRICING CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE MOUNTING OF THE SEATS.*****			
	*****QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS*****			

Subtotal \$39,806.02

Sales Tax (0.0%) \$0.00

Total \$39,806.02

TRANS. PHONE #
325-692-8351

TRANS. FAX #

BUCK'S WHEEL
& EQUIPMENT
5101 N. MAIN ST
FORT WORTH, TX 76179
PHONE 817-332-1228
FAX 817-332-1817



Quote

Date	Quote #
12/5/2025	36090
Rep	CME

Name / Address
WYLIE ISD 6251 BUFFLO GAP RD ABILENE TX 79606

Ship To
WYLIE ISD ATTN: DEAN PHIPPS / BUS BARN 4502B ANTILLEY RD ABILENE TX 79606

UNIT #	Customer E-mail	Customer Phone	Customer Fax
	dean.phipps@wyliebulldog...	325-692-8351	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
PARTS	NEX GEN, 39" SEAT ASSEMBLY ONLY WITH (3) 3-POINT SEAT BELTS, GRAY FIREBLOCK VINYL	24	950.25	22,806.00
LABOR	REMOVE ALL EXISTING SEATS AND HARDWARE, INSTALL NEW 3PT SEAT BELT SEATS WITH NEW MOUNTING HARDWARE	1	6,500.00	6,500.00
PARTS	RETROFIT MOUNTING KIT	24	36.52	876.48
SHOP PARTS	SHOP PARTS / MISC. EXPENSE HARDWARE	1	650.00	650.00
LABOR 909	REMOVE AND REPLACE THE SUBFLOOR AND VINYL FLOORING	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
*****FLOOR MUST BE REPLACED DUE TO LIABILITY REASONS PER THE SEAT MANUFACTURER*****				
*****THIS IS A GENERIC QUOTE FOR A 71 / 72 PASSENGER BUS*****				
*****PRICING CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE MOUNTING OF THE SEATS.*****				
*****QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS*****				

Subtotal	\$37,832.48
Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
Total	\$37,832.48

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FAX 817-332-1817



Quote

Date	Quote #
12/5/2025	36093
Rep	CME

Name / Address
WYLIE ISD 6251 BUFFLO GAP RD ABILENE TX 79606

Ship To
WYLIE ISD ATTN: DEAN PHIPPS / BUS BARN 4502B ANTILLEY RD ABILENE TX 79606

UNIT #	Customer E-mail	Customer Phone	Customer Fax
	dean.phipps@wyliebulldog...	325-692-8351	

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
PARTS	NEX GEN, 39" SEAT ASSEMBLY ONLY WITH (3) 3-POINT SEAT BELTS, GRAY FIREBLOCK VINYL	16	950.25	15,204.00
LABOR	REMOVE ALL EXISTING SEATS AND HARDWARE, INSTALL NEW 3PT SEAT BELT SEATS WITH NEW MOUNTING HARDWARE	1	4,500.00	4,500.00
PARTS	RETROFIT MOUNTING KIT	16	36.52	584.32
SHOP PARTS	SHOP PARTS / MISC. EXPENSE HARDWARE / WASTE FEE	1	650.00	650.00
LABOR 909	REMOVE AND REPLACE FOR TO MAKE TO SPEC FOR MOUNTING 3PT BELTS	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
	*****FLOOR MUST BE REPLACED DUE TO LIABILITY REASONS PER THE SEAT MANUFACTURER*****			
	*****THIS IS A GENERIC QUOTE FOR A 54 PASSENGER BUS*****			
	*****PRICING CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE MOUNTING OF THE SEATS.*****			
	*****QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS*****			

Subtotal	\$27,938.32
Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
Total	\$27,938.32

TRANS. PHONE #
325-692-8351

TRANS. FAX #