

KISD Transportation Services

Legislative Overview –
Texas Senate Bill 546 – Seat Belts on School Buses



Legislative Overview – Texas Senate Bill 546 (Texas Transportation Code §547.701)

Seatbelts on all School Buses

- Texas Senate Bill 546 requires three-point (lap and shoulder) seat belts on all school buses. Amends Texas Transportation Code §547.701, previous seatbelt law requirement for new buses only (2018 or later)
 - Applies to all buses transporting students
 - Compliance deadline: September 1, 2029
 - District data must be reported to TEA by May 30, 2026

Senate Bill 546

TEA Reporting Requirements

KISD Data required by
May 30, 2026

- #Buses equipped with 3-point (lap & shoulder) seatbelts
- #Buses not equipped with 3-point (lap & shoulder) seatbelts
- #Buses equipped with only 2-point (lap) seatbelts
- #Buses not equipped with seatbelts
- Estimated cost to equip all buses with seatbelts
- **Can the District's Budget cover the cost?**

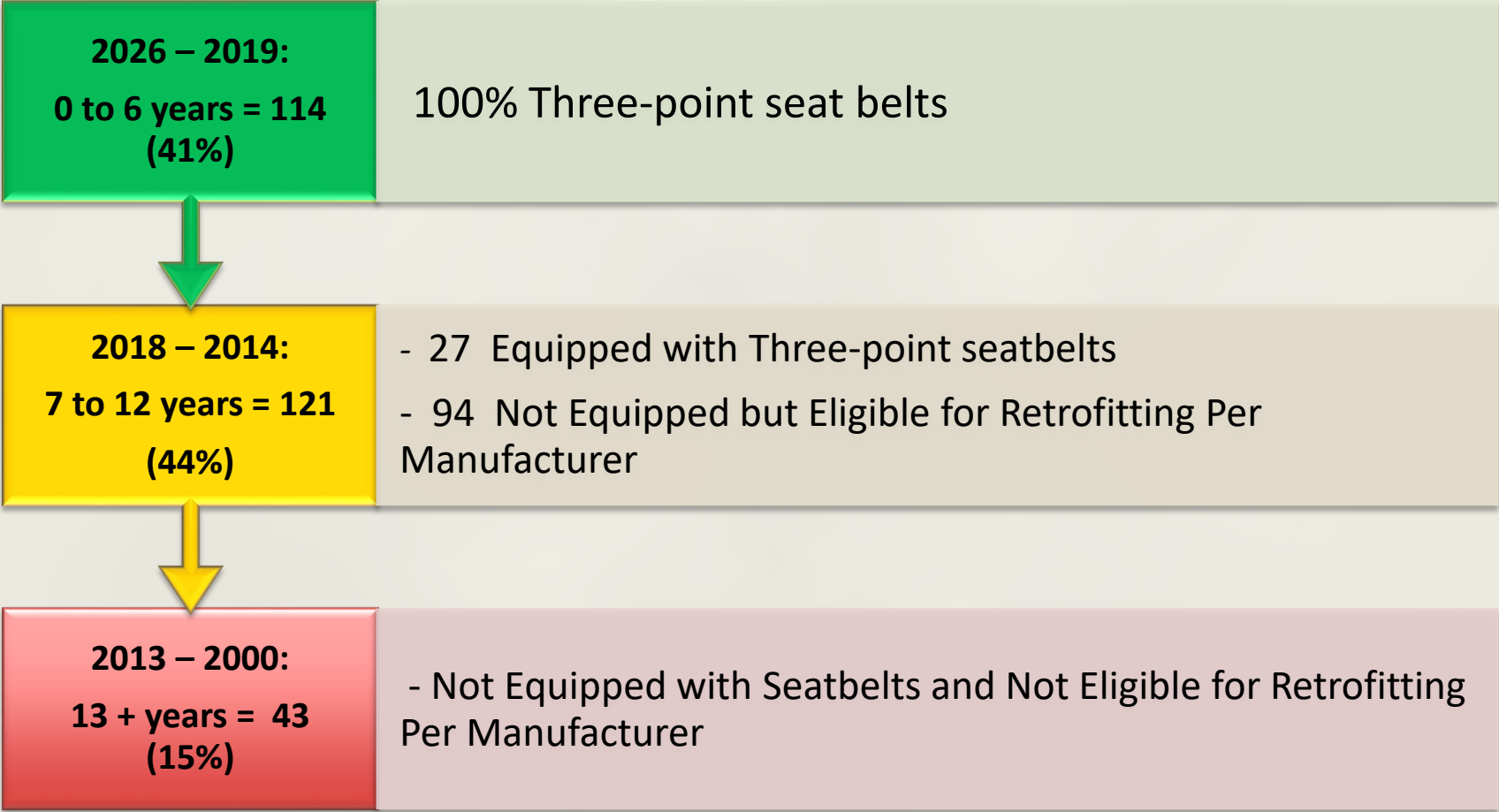
KISD School Bus Fleet Snapshot

April 2026

278 School Buses

- 141 (51%) KISD Buses with three-point seat belts
- 137 (49%) KISD Buses without three-point seat belts
 - 63 Buses with only 2-point lap belts
 - 74 Buses without any seat belts

KISD School Bus Fleet Age Profile



KISD SB546 Compliance Cost

- **New Bus Estimate: \$140,000**
- **Seatbelt Retrofit Avg. Estimate: \$42,000**

(IC Bus = \$42,000; Thomas Bus = \$40,000; *Bluebird \$42,000)

RETROFIT 66 Eligible Buses (Age 8-10 yrs/2016 –18) = \$2.8M

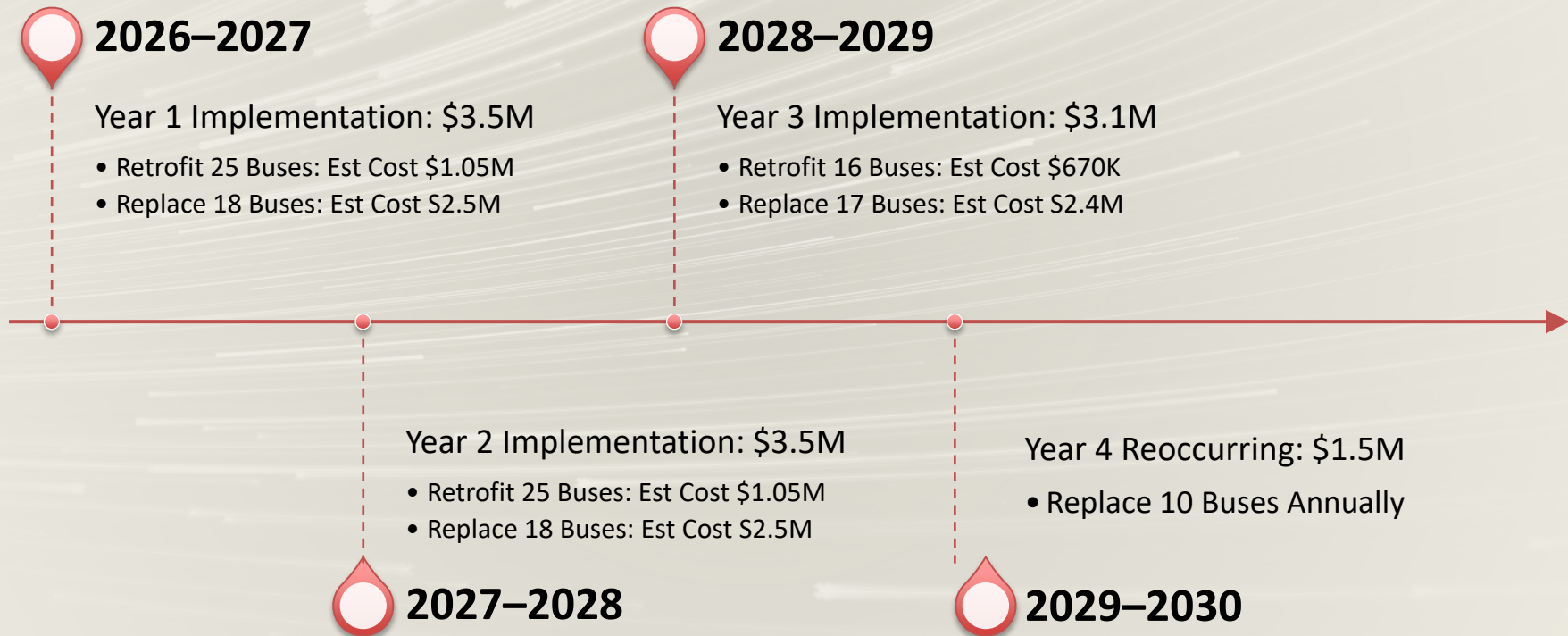
- Do not retrofit buses over 10 years old. Retrofit 66 out of 94 eligible buses.

REPLACE 53 School Buses over 10 yrs old (1999 – 2015) = \$7.4M

- 18 buses w/o seatbelts do not replace (Fleet Rightsizing)

RETROFIT & REPLACEMENT OF *119 Buses = \$10.2M

KISD SB546 Seatbelt Compliance Schedule



SB546 Seatbelt Compliance Timelines & Next Steps

Timelines

- KISD School Bus Fleet data, cost estimates and board decision must be reported to TEA by **May 30, 2026**
- Seatbelt Compliance deadline: **September 1, 2029**

Next Steps

- KISD Determination – Is SB546 compliance financially feasible?
 - A grant opportunity will be made available to eligible school systems with budget constraints after reporting closes per TEA.
- KISD Board Presentation
- KISD TEA Reporting – Cost, decision, copy of board agenda and minutes

Questions?