

# RESOLUTION

## NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES SB 546 SEAT BELT REQUIREMENTS-FINANCIAL INABILITY DETERMINATION

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 546 (89th Texas Legislature) requires that all school buses operated by or contracted for use by a school district be equipped with three-point seat belts for every passenger, including the operator, with full compliance required no later than September 1, 2029; and

WHEREAS, North East ISD currently operates a fleet that includes a significant number of buses that do not meet the newly mandated safety equipment requirements, as they were acquired before the implementation of Senate Bill 546; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to replace or retrofit the non-compliant buses, which has been determined to be approximately \$19,953,600 creates a substantial financial burden on the District; and

WHEREAS, the 2025-2026 Adopted Budget included a deficit of \$41,810,878; and

WHEREAS, SB 546 authorizes a school district to determine, through Board action, that the District's budget does not permit the purchase of compliant buses or retrofitting of non-compliant buses at this time, provided that required reporting to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the fleet inventory and cost projections and finds that full compliance by the statutory deadline is not financially feasible under current funding conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of North East ISD determines that the District's current budget does not permit full compliance with SB 546 by September 1, 2029 and directs the Superintendent to submit the required SB 546 reporting to the Texas Education Agency, including the fleet inventory, cost estimates, and this Resolution.

The Board further directs the Superintendent to develop a phased, fiscally responsible replacement and/or retrofit plan and provide updates to the Board as necessary.

Adopted and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026 by the Board of Trustees of North East ISD.

  
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President, Board of Trustees

  
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Secretary, Board of Trustees