
Board Report: SB 546 Compliance & Seat Belt Retrofit Feasibility

I. Purpose

This report is presented to the Board of Trustees in accordance with **Senate Bill 546 (89th Legislature)** and **Texas Transportation Code §547.701(f)**. The District is required to determine whether current budgetary funds allow for the retrofitting of all school buses with 3-point seat belts or if a financial feasibility deferment is necessary.

II. Fleet Inventory Summary

As of this report, the District’s fleet status is as follows. Note that buses currently scheduled for auction have been excluded from this compliance study.

- **Compliant (3-Point Belts Installed):** 7 Units (2 SPED buses, 5 Trip buses).
- **Non-Compliant (Requires Retrofit):** 51 Units (Existing fleet).
- **Incoming Non-Compliant:** 10 Units (New Thomas buses arriving without 3-point belts).

III. Projected Retrofit Costs

To achieve full compliance by the state-mandated deadline of **September 1, 2029**, the District would need to fund the following retrofits:

Bus Type	Quantity	Unit Cost	Subtotal
77-Passenger (Existing)	44	\$39,806.02	\$1,751,464.88
77-Passenger (Incoming)	10	\$39,806.02	\$398,060.20

54-Passenger (Existing)	7	\$29,911.86	\$209,383.02
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	61		\$2,358,908.10

IV. Financial & Operational Analysis

1. **Incoming Fleet:** The 10 new Thomas buses were ordered/received without 3-point belts. Retrofitting these immediately would require an unbudgeted expenditure of nearly **\$400,000**.
2. **Auction Strategy:** Older, non-compliant fleet vehicles are being auctioned. The District has correctly avoided including these in the retrofit estimate to prevent unnecessary spending on retiring assets.
3. **TEA Guidance:** TEA is using these reports to calculate statewide funding needs. By voting "not feasible" today, the District remains eligible for potential future grants that may be established once TEA presents its final findings to the Legislature in 2027.

V. Recommendation

Given the total projected cost of **\$2,358,908.10**, the administration recommends that the Board **vote to determine that the District’s budget does not permit this expenditure at this time**. This action fulfills our legal obligation to TEA and allows the District to wait for further guidance and potential grant opportunities before the final 2029 compliance deadline.

Action Item for the Board

Motion: To approve the determination that the District’s budget is not currently sufficient to retrofit the fleet with 3-point seat belts as required by SB 546 and to authorize the Superintendent to report these findings to the Texas Education Agency via the Sentinel Bus Reporting Module.

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



Quote

Date	Quote #
3/13/2026	38504
Rep	

Name / Address
HALLSVILLE ISD PO BOX 810 HALLSVILLE, TX 75650

Ship To
HALLSVILLE ISD 300 WILLOW STREET HALLSVILLE, TX 75650

UNIT #	Customer E-mail	Customer Phone	Customer Fax
	accounts payable@hisd.com	903-668-5990 ext 5555	903-668-5991

Item	Description	Qty	Rate	Total
PARTS	NEX GEN, 39" SEAT ASSEMBLY ONLY WITH (3) 3-POINT SEAT BELTS, GRAY FIREBLOCK VINYL	18	950.25	17,104.50
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	18	36.52	657.36
SHOP PARTS	SHOP PARTS / MISC. EXPENSE HARDWARE / WASTE FEE	1	650.00	650.00
LABOR 909	REMOVE AND REPLACE FLOOR 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	\$29,911.86
Sales Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
Total	\$29,911.86

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903-220-8044

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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	REPLACING FLOOR	1	7,000.00	7,000.00
	*****THIS IS A GENERIC QUOTE FOR A 77 PASSENGER BUS*****			
	*****PRICING CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE MOUNTING OF THE SEATS AND IF THE FLOOR NEEDS TO BE REPLACED.*****			
	*****QUOTE VALID FOR 30 DAYS*****			

Subtotal	\$39,806.02
Sales Tax (0.0%)	50.00
Total	\$39,806.02

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