



Board of Trustees Meeting

April 2, 2026



**Abilene ISD Transportation
SB 546
Compliance & Fleet Recommendation**

*Presenter:
Zach Sneed
Assistant Director of Transportation*



Senate Bill 546- Student Transportation Safety Requirements

Review of Purpose:

Senate Bill 546 (SB 546) seeks to enhance student transportation safety by requiring that all buses used to transport students be equipped with three-point seat belts for each rider, including the driver.



Compliance Requirement

All buses used to transport students in AISD **MUST** be equipped with 3-point seatbelts by

May 31, 2026

If the Board determines that full compliance is not feasible, the district must:

- Take formal action in a public meeting to acknowledge budgetary constraints.
- Submit the Board's action and the estimated cost of compliance through the Sentinel system by May 31, 2026
- Develop a plan to bring all buses into compliance **no later than**

September 1, 2029



Summary of Non-Compliant Fleet

Of our 127 Buses, 91 Buses Are Not in Compliance With SB 546; Reflects 72% of our Bus Fleet

- General Education- 70
- Special Education- 21
- Transit- 6 (classified under General Education count)
- Road Bus- 13 (classified under General Education count)



AISD Estimated Cost for SB 546 Compliance

Estimated Costs by Category:

- International Buses (Retrofit) - \$1,509,379.66
- Blue Bird Buses (Replacement) - \$7,500,000

Total Estimated Cost for Full Compliance

\$9,009,379



Recommendation

Our recommendation is to notify through the Sentinel system that the district is currently unable to meet requirements by May 31, 2026, due to budgetary constraints.