

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TAFT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELT REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT: Determination of Financial Hardship Regarding School Bus Seat Belt Requirements (SB 546/SB 693)

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of the students of Taft Independent School District (the “District”) are the highest priorities of the Board of Trustees and the District Administration;

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature previously passed Senate Bill 693 (2017) and subsequently updated requirements through Senate Bill 546 (2025/2026), codified in the Texas Transportation Code and Texas Education Code, requiring school buses to be equipped with three-point seat belts;

WHEREAS, the District is committed to the long-term goal of a fully compliant fleet through the natural replacement cycle of older buses as funds become available;

WHEREAS, the current District fleet consists of 14 buses, of which 6 are not currently equipped with three-point seat belts;

WHEREAS, the District Administration has conducted a thorough fiscal impact analysis and determined that the cost to retrofit existing buses is approximately \$266,400, and the cost to replace non-compliant buses exceeds the current allocated transportation budget;

WHEREAS, Texas law allows a Board of Trustees to determine that a district’s budget does not permit the purchase or retrofitting of buses with three-point seat belts, provided such a determination is made in a public meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TAFT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

1. **FINANCIAL DETERMINATION:** The Board of Trustees officially determines that the District’s current budget for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years does not permit the immediate retrofitting of the existing fleet or the accelerated purchase of new buses equipped with three-point seat belts as required under applicable Texas law for school bus safety.
2. **COST PROHIBITIVE STATUS:** The Board finds that the costs associated with immediate compliance would necessitate the diversion of essential funds from classroom instruction, school safety personnel, or critical facility maintenance.
3. **REPORTING:** The Superintendent or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Texas Education Agency (TEA) of this determination in accordance with the May 29, 2026, reporting deadline.
4. **FUTURE COMPLIANCE:** The District shall continue to seek state or federal grant opportunities and will prioritize, to the extent required by law, the inclusion

of three-point seat belts in all future bus purchases made through the District's standard capital replacement schedule, as budget permits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Taft Independent School District hereby adopts this Resolution and makes the foregoing findings and determinations pursuant to applicable provisions of Texas law governing school bus safety requirements.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 20th day of April 2026.

TAFT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY:



Manuel Banda
BOARD PRESIDENT

ATTEST:



Johnny Carvajal
BOARD SECRETARY