MATHIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION OF THE 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 Mathis ISD currently operates a fleet that includes a significant number of buses that do not meet the newly mandated safety equipment requirements; and

WHEREAS the estimated cost to replace or retrofit the non-compliant buses creates a substantial financial burden on the District, and current budget conditions do not permit full compliance within the required timeframe; 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, cost projections, and multi-year capital replacement requirements and finds that full compliance by the statutory deadline is not financially feasible under current funding conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Trustees of Mathis ISD hereby determines that the District's current budget does not permit full compliance with SB 546 by September 1, 2029.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to submit the required SB 546 reporting to the Texas Education Agency, including the fleet inventory, cost estimates, and this Resolution.
3. The Board further directs the Superintendent to develop a phased, fiscally responsible replacement and/or retrofit plan and to provide updates to the Board as part of the annual budget planning.

Adopted and approved on this 18th day of May, 2026 by the Bord of Trustees of Mathis Independent School District.

Melinda Barajas
Board President

APPROVED
MAY 18 2026

Superintendent