

DATE:	June 18, 2026
SUBJECT:	School Bus Safety Grant Program
CATEGORY:	School Safety
NEXT STEPS:	Eligible districts should complete the IDC Data Application

Overview

The passing of the General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill (SB) 1 (89th Regular Legislative Session), created the School Bus Safety Grant Program (Rider 85). The grant program will assist school systems with retrofitting school buses with three-point seat belts. This letter provides details about the grant program.

School Bus Safety Grant Program

The Texas Legislature appropriated \$10M for the School Bus Safety Grant Program. This Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) grant program will provide award recipients with a maximum of \$6,000 per school bus to retrofit school buses with three-point seat belts.

Eligibility

For eligibility requirements, review the [General and Fiscal Guidelines](#), Appendix B: Additional Guidelines for Informal Discretionary Competition (IDC) Grants: *Eligibility to Apply*.

The following school systems are eligible to apply for the grant by first completing the IDC Data Application:

- School systems receiving the Transportation Allotment, under Texas Education Code, Section 48.151.
- School systems that have completed the SB 546 Reporting on School Seat Belt Costs.

IDC Data Application

- [IDC Data Application link](#)
- Deadline to submit: **August 14, 2026**.
- **Note:** Once a survey is initiated, it will remain accessible for submission for 48 hours. After that period, all entered information will expire, and the applicant must restart the process.
- School systems can download a [PDF preview of the survey](#) prior to completing the Qualtrics survey.

Additional Supports and Questions

The Office of School Safety and Security will host Office Hours to support the grant process. To attend the Office Hours sessions, please [register via Zoom](#).

For additional information, please email the Office of School Safety and Security at safeschools@tea.texas.gov.