

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.
- [School Bus Safety Grant Program – Program Guidelines](#)

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.