

To: Texas School Board Members

From: Texas Faith Leaders

Re: State-Organized Prayer in Texas Schools (SB11)

Date: January 8, 2026

Dear Superintendents and School Board Trustees,

We, the undersigned faith leaders, support religious liberty and the right of students to pray at school without government interference. Public education is both a place where students of all faiths come together to learn and a vital institution that prepares students to live in a society of many religions.

We believe in the value of religious instruction. We also understand that the responsibility for religious instruction lies with students, their families, and their local faith communities—not with public schools, and not organized or directed by the state.

By requiring school boards to vote on a state-designated time for prayer and religious text study, Texas' state-organized prayer in school law, SB11, threatens to drive a wedge into public school communities and create unnecessary administrative burdens. Existing laws protect Texas public school students' right to pray and read religious texts at school without government interference—and without the administrative burden that SB11 places on schools and parents.

If SB11's prayer policy is approved, schools will be required to track consent forms, designate non instructional time for prayer, identify private prayer spaces, and ensure non-participating students are not coerced to pray. Requiring families to opt into a system that already protects their children's religious rights at school distracts from a school's mission of educating children. Students who do not opt in might be bullied and ostracized, and students may feel pressure to opt in to gain favor and time with teachers or coaches. State-sponsored prayer time will also cause division among students based on their religious beliefs.

Instead of approving SB11's misguided state-organized prayer policy, we urge you to pass the attached resolution as an alternative for approval by the School Board. It affirms students' right to prayer and religious study under existing law and respects the religious diversity within public schools. We ask you to support religious freedom in our schools and reject SB11's state-organized prayer policy.

We are available for questions and testimony if we can be helpful in these efforts.

Thank you,

Undersigned Texas Faith Leaders