



To: Coppell ISD Board of Trustees
From: Cooper Hilton, Director of Governmental Relations & Strategic Initiatives
Date: February 9th, 2026

cc: Dr. Leanne Shivers, Carol Snowden

Re: Resolution for a Period of Prayer and Reading of Religious Text

Background Information and Rationale:

With the passage of Senate Bill 11 by the 89th Texas Legislature, each Texas school board must take a record vote by March 1st, 2026 on whether to adopt a resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of religious text during the school day.

If a school board decides to adopt such a resolution, the period of prayer and religious reading must follow the provisions set out in Texas Education Code § 25.0823, which includes the following requirements:

- To participate in the period of prayer and religious reading, a student's parents must submit a signed consent, expressly waiving their right to bring a legal claim on a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- The prayer and religious reading must not be done in the physical presence or hearing of a person for whom a signed consent was not made.
- The prayer and religious reading may only be observed in isolated areas where consenting parties are separated from non-consenting parties; before the school day; or by methods recommended by the Texas Attorney General or the district's legal counsel.

CISD Administration does not advocate for the adoption of such a resolution. State law, federal law, and Coppell ISD Board Policy already allow students to engage in prayer, reading of religious text, and religious expression on school property and during the school day. CISD Board Policy FNA (Legal) currently states:

“A public school student has an absolute right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school. A student shall not be required, encouraged, or coerced to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity. *Education Code 25.901*”

Nothing in the Constitution as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any time before, during, or after the school Day...”

Board Policy FNA (Local) states: “The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.” The local policy further provides that students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, and religious gatherings, before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student groups.

Students already possess well-established rights to engage in religious expression on school grounds before, during, and after school. Coppell ISD has policies and practices in place to protect students in the exercise of their rights. Students are free to continue exercising these rights, even in the absence of the resolution proposed in Section 25.0823. Accordingly, the Administration recommends that the Board decline to adopt the resolution pursuant to Senate Bill 11.

Documents for Review

- Model Resolution

Budget and/or Fund Impact: N/A

Administrative Recommendation: Decline to adopt a resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of religious text during the school day pursuant to Senate Bill 11.

Working together, CISD staff will continue “creating profound learning experiences for each child, while nurturing meaningful relationships, to positively impact our world.”

Resolution Regarding Senate Bill 11
Period of Prayer and Reading of the Bible or Other Religious Text

The Coppell ISD shall adopt a policy requiring every campus of Coppell ISD to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Education Code 25.0823.

Adopted this ____ (date) day of _____ (month), ____ (year), by the Board.

Board President's signature: _____

Board Secretary's signature: _____