

Graham Independent School District Board Agenda Item Synopsis

Subject: Consider Approval of Senate Bill 11 TEC 25.0823 Related to FNA Legal Policy Updated October 9, 2025

Background Information

Senate Bill 11 (TEC § 25.0823), requires Trustees to take a record vote on whether to adopt a resolution described by TEC § 25.0823(a-1).

Current Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Expression (No SB 11) and per Graham ISD's Board Policy FNA (LEGAL) updated October 9, 2025:

1. District students have an absolute right to at any time individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the instructional or other activities of the school;
2. Students shall not be required or coerced to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity, as described by TEC § 25.901 below;

Sec. 25.901. EXERCISE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO PRAY. 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 person may not require or coerce a student to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

3. Participation requires no parental consent.

SB 11 Requirements Summary

1. Non-Instructional Time and Before Normal School Hours: A designated prayer or reading of other religious text may not be a substitute for instructional time and may be before normal school hours under SB 11.
2. Public/verbal prayer or religious reading during designated period may only occur in approved areas per Texas Education Code § 25.0823.
3. Participation: Requires a school district (governmental entity) to actively monitor and ensure signed consent form from an employee or parent or guardian of students as described by TEC § 25.0823 unless the Board adopts a policy described by TEC § 25.0823.
4. Requires a school district (governmental entity) to actively monitor and ensure a public/verbal prayer during the designated period is not provided in the presence or within the hearing of a person who has not submitted a signed consent form per TEC § 25.0823(d).
5. Adds compliance requirements under TEC § 25.0823. **[Sec. 25.0823. PERIOD OF PRAYER AND READING OF BIBLE OR OTHER RELIGIOUS TEXT.](#)**

Administrative Consideration

Trustees shall take a vote on whether to adopt a resolution described by TEC § 25.0823.

Alignment to District Goals:

- 1. **Academics:** All students will be prepared for success at the next level.
- 2. **Our People:** Recruit and retain highly qualified employees at all levels.
- 3. **Finance and Facilities:**
Optimize revenues and impact student achievement by increasing attendance rates at all campuses.
Commit to excellence in facilities that promote innovative, health, and welcoming learning environments.
- 4. **Culture:** All stakeholders will take ownership in creating a welcoming, compassionate, unified school community striving for aspirational achievements.
- 5. **Safety:** Provide a safe, healthy and secure environment for all stakeholders.
- 6. **Communications:** Support student success through clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and marketing that builds trust, reflects our diverse community, and empowers all stakeholders.

Budgetary Impact

None

Recommendation

Recommend not to adopt a resolution described by Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code.

Meeting Date: February 25, 2026