



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Blanca I. Cruz, Associate Superintendent
Subject: Discussion and possible Board action regarding the consideration of Senate Bill 11
Date: February 11, 2026

HISTORY:

During the 89th Legislative Session, the State of Texas passed Senate Bill 11 (SB 11), authorizing school boards to vote on whether to establish a daily period of prayer and the reading of religious texts at district campuses. SB 11 is distinct from SB 10, which addresses posting of the Ten Commandments in schools.

RATIONALE:

The law requires school boards to take a vote between September 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026, regarding adoption of a prayer period. While the vote itself is mandatory, the law does not require districts to vote in any particular way. A record of the vote must be maintained.

Therefore, the school board has the option to approve or deny the adoption of a prayer period by March 1, 2026.

If a board approves a prayer period:

- The school board takes vote accordingly.
- Participation is strictly voluntary for students and staff.
- Parental consent is required for student participation; consent forms must also waive legal claims and release the district from liability.
- No public address system may be used for prayer or religious readings.
- The prayer period cannot replace instructional time.
- Non-participants must not be exposed to religious activity, meaning they cannot be in physical or audible proximity.
- Students who, without consent, are exposed to religious activity, may have an “injury in fact” within the meaning of the United States and Texas Constitutions, exposing the District to potential liability.
- The American Civil Liberties Union has threatened school districts that adopt the prayer period with litigation, however the law provides for the state to provide legal defense at the cost of the state.
- A board resolution is necessary (see attachment).

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.



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If the board denies a prayer period:

- The school board takes vote accordingly.

BUDGET IMPACT:

No budget impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: The administrative recommendation is for the school board to take the required vote to approve or deny a prayer period.

For Approval? Yes No

If no, please check one: Presentation Report Information

Please check if applicable: Attachment Included

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