

MANSFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION
Resolution 26-16 Regarding Senate Bill 11 – Opportunity for Prayer and Religious Expression

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 11, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature, requires each school board to take a recorded vote by **March 1, 2026**, on whether to adopt a policy requiring each campus to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day; and

WHEREAS, **Education Code 25.901 (FNA LEGAL)** guarantees that public school students have 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; and

WHEREAS, **Education Code 25.151 (FNA LEGAL)** requires that a district treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint in the same manner as a secular viewpoint, prohibiting discrimination based on religious expression; and

WHEREAS, **FNA (LOCAL)** allows students to organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "See You at the Pole" gatherings, and other religious activities before, during, and after school, with the same access to facilities as other noncurricular student groups; and

WHEREAS, **TEC 25.082(d)** provides for one minute of silence at each campus following the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags; and

WHEREAS, **FNAB (LOCAL)** confirms that student-led religious groups, such as FCA, Bible Club, and Jesus Club, already operate at the high school level with parental permission and in compliance with district policy; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that existing law and district policy already ensure that students and staff may voluntarily engage in prayer, reading of religious texts, and other forms of religious expression without interference, and that additional policy adoption under SB 11 is therefore unnecessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees:

1. Affirms that students and staff retain the right to voluntarily engage in prayer, reading of religious texts, and other religious expression on school property and during the school day, consistent with state and federal law and existing district policy.
2. Declines to adopt a separate SB 11 policy at this time, finding that current law and policy sufficiently provide the required opportunities for religious expression.
3. Directs the Superintendent to report to the Board, as required, and to document the Board's decision regarding Senate Bill 11 in compliance with the law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 20.

Board President

Board Secretary