



Meeting Date: February 26, 2026

Submitted By: Cecilia Davis
Title: Deputy Superintendent

Agenda Item: Discussion and possible action regarding approval of a resolution regarding prayer in school.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve attached resolution affirming Judson ISD's Constitutional and Legal Right to Choose to Pray in School as presented.

IMPACT/RATIONALE:

On or before March 1, 2026, each district's board must take a record vote either to establish the daily prayer time and reading of religious texts by adopting the SB 11 resolution set out in the new statute or to decline to establish the daily prayer time. However, should the Board of Trustees opt to not adopt a SB 11 resolution, the Board may adopt a resolution that affirms JISD's current practices.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval/Disapproval



Resolution Affirming Our Constitutional and Legal Right to Choose to Pray in School

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects students' religious freedom in public school. Specifically, the Establishment Clause ensures that the government cannot favor any particular religious belief or religion over non-belief, and the Free Exercise Clause ensures that individuals have the right to practice their religious beliefs, free from government interference; and

WHEREAS, Article I, § 6 of the Texas Constitution guarantees the "separation of church and state" and embodies the principle that "religion is a matter of private conscience with which the state . . . is forbidden to interfere." *Watts v. Watts*, 563 S.W.2d 314, 317 (Tex. Civ. App. 1978), writ refused NRE (July 5, 1978), disapp'd on other grounds by *Jones v. Cable*, 626 S.W.2d 734 (Tex. 1981); and

WHEREAS, the Texas Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 110.003, prohibits school districts and other government entities from "substantially burden[ing] a person's free exercise of religion"; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Code § 25.901 affirms that "[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"; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Education Code § 25.082(d) establishes a school district's ability to institute a period of silence during which students may choose to "reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student";

NOW, LET IT BE HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Judson ISD Board of Trustees, in consideration of the laws and policies recited above, is committed to cultivating and maintaining a respectful school environment for students and teachers of any or no religious background, and supports the rights of individuals to pray in its schools.

Adopted this 26th day of February , 2026, by the Board of Trustees.

Monica Ryan, President

Lesley Lee, Secretary

