



**Board of School Trustees
Mansfield Independent School District**

TITLE: Consideration and Approval of
Resolution No. 26-16 - Opportunity for
Prayer and Religious Expression

DATE: February 17, 2026

ACTION

BACKGROUND: 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.

CONSIDERATIONS: 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. Legal policy also 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.

Local policy confirms that student-led religious groups, such as FCA, Bible Club, and Jesus Club, etc. already operate at the high school level with parental permission and in compliance with district policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

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 Senate Bill 11 is therefore unnecessary.

MOTION:

A motion of Resolution No. 26-16 would be to decline to adopt a separate Senate Bill 11 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.

The motion would read, "I move to decline to adopt the separate Senate Bill 11 policy at this time, finding that current law and policy sufficiently provide the required opportunities for religious expression. Affirming 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. The Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees 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.”