

NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Subject: **Discussion of SB10- The Display of the 10 Commandments**

Date: September 29, 2025

Administrator Responsible/Position: Mandy D. Epley/Superintendent of Schools

A. Purpose of Agenda Item:

☒ Information Only

☐ Action Needed

☐ Receive Input

B. Authority for This Action:

☐ Local Policy

☒ Law or Rule

☐ N/A

C. Priority, Goal, or Need Addressed:

☐ Strategic Plan

☐ District/Campus
Improvement
Plan

☐ Other

Priorities

☐ **Priority 1:** Recruiting, Hiring, Coaching, and Retaining High Quality Teachers and Staff to Support Student Outcomes.

☐ **Priority 2:** Maximizing Academic Performance.

☐ **Priority 3:** Maximizing Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Opportunities, Performance, and Engagement.

☐ **Priority 4:** Planning, Preparing, and Maintaining Facilities and Environments for Learning.

☐ **Priority 5:** Obtaining and Maintaining Top Rated District Recognition

Board Goals for 2023-2028

☐ **Goal 1*:** The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Reading will increase from 49% to 60% by June 2024, 65% for 2024-2025, 70% for 2025-2026, 75% for 2026-2027, 80% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 2*:** Increased overall student performance in mathematics to 85% Meets Standard by 2028. The percent of 3rd grade students that score meets grade level or above on STAAR Math will increase from 53% to 65% by June 2024, 70% for 2024-2025, 75% for 2025-2026, 80% for 2026-2027, 85% for 2027-2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

☐ **Goal 3*:** The percentage of graduates that meet the criteria for CCMR will increase from 72% to 88% by August 2024 and increase to 95% by 2028. **(HB3 Required Goal)**

D.

Summary:

Our district has received a donation of posters that comply with SB10's specifications. As a result, we are required to display these posters in a conspicuous location in every classroom on our campuses. Each campus received

30 posters.

There is currently an injunction issued by a federal district court following a lawsuit against several Texas school districts. The injunction only applies to those districts in the lawsuit, therefore Navarro ISD must proceed to follow the law.

We understand that personal beliefs and opinions will vary. It is important to note that this is a state-mandated display. The law does not require or authorize any instructional time to be dedicated to the content of the posters. The posters are for passive display only and are not part of the school curriculum. Staff communication that will be sent tomorrow before posters are issued instructs teachers and staff to please refrain from providing any instruction, commentary, or curriculum-related activities regarding the Ten Commandments posters.

If students have questions about the poster, staff is instructed to simply explain that the poster is required by law and encourage students to speak about it directly with their parents/guardians at home. If parents come to staff with questions, they will be directed to our district communication in ParentSquare and our website.

Our principals have received this guidance when asked questions by families or students: Senate Bill 10: Ten Commandments Posters

What does Senate Bill 10 require?

Senate Bill 10, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2025, requires public schools to display a poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments in classrooms if those posters are privately donated and meet the law's specifications.

Does every classroom have to get a poster?

Not automatically. The law only applies when posters are donated. If no posters are donated, schools are not required to purchase or display them.

What are the poster requirements?

- **The poster must include only the text of the Ten Commandments (as written in the law).**
 - **It must be at least 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall.**
 - **The text must be large enough to be legible from anywhere in the classroom.**
 - **It cannot contain additional images, wording, or content.**
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How are posters being provided to NISD?

They are being privately donated. The 30 posters donated to each campus are from Restore American Schools.

How will posters be distributed on campuses?

Posters will be placed in this order until supplies are exhausted:

- 1. Social Studies classrooms**
- 2. English/Language Arts classrooms**
- 3. Math classrooms**
- 4. Science classrooms**
- 5. CTE/Special Programs/Electives**

If all teachers teach core subjects, the campus will place posters in order of grade level from lowest to highest until all supplies are exhausted.

This is designed for consistency of posting across all campuses as/if we receive additional donations in different quantities at each campus to complete posting in classrooms.

What if a campus does not receive enough posters for every classroom?

Posters will be placed following the ordered list above. If additional donations come in later, campuses will cover remaining classrooms.

What if staff or families have concerns?

We recognize that people will have different perspectives. Our responsibility as a district is to comply with state law. Questions and opinions should be directed to state legislators.

When does this law take effect?

The law became effective September 1, 2025 and applies beginning with the 2025–2026 school year.

This communication was sent to families before any posters were displayed via Parent Square on Friday, September 5.

Hello Panther Family,

A new state law, Texas Senate Bill 10 (SB10), went into effect on September 1. This legislation mandates that all public elementary and secondary school classrooms must display the Ten Commandments on a donated poster or framed

copy that meets specific size and legibility requirements. The donated poster must be at least 16 inches wide by 20 inches tall, wording and typeface must be large enough to be legible from anywhere in the classroom, and schools are not exempt from this requirement if posters are donated.

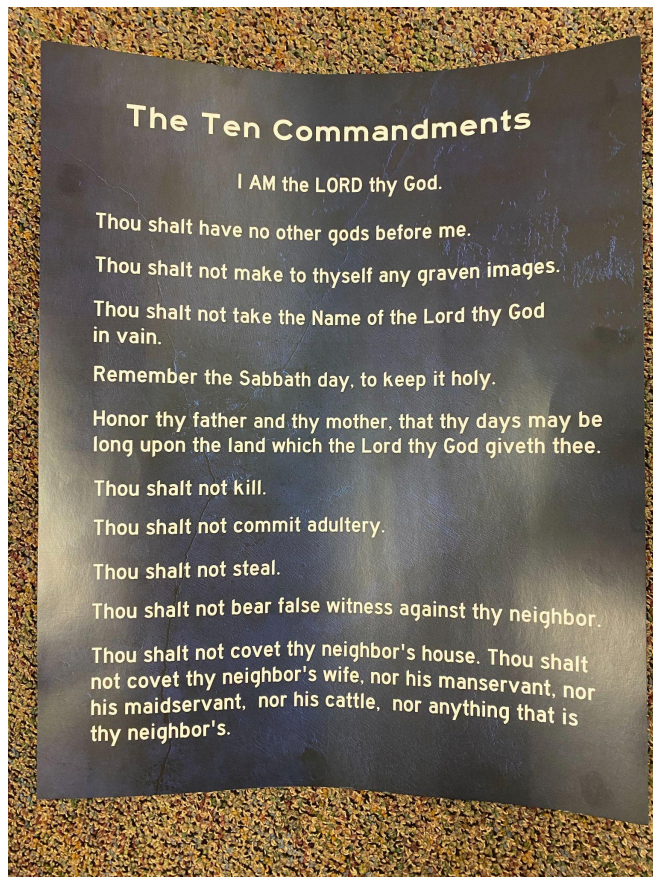
Our district has received a donation of posters that comply with the law's specifications from a private organization. As a result, we are required to display these donated posters. Navarro ISD did not use any district funds to purchase any posters for SB 10. An example of the poster is shown below.

There is currently an injunction issued by a federal district court following a lawsuit against several Texas school districts. The injunction only applies to those districts in the lawsuit, therefore Navarro ISD must proceed to follow the law.

We understand that personal beliefs and opinions will vary. It is important to note that this is a state-mandated display. The law does not require or authorize any instructional time to be dedicated to the content of the posters. The posters are for passive display only and are not part of the school curriculum.

If students have questions about the posters, teachers and staff will encourage students to speak about it directly with their parents or guardians at home.

Navarro ISD must comply with this new state law. If you want to voice your opinion about the law, we encourage you to reach out to your state legislator's office. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



**Background
Information:**

SB10 went into effect on September 1, 2025. This legislation mandates that all public elementary and secondary school classrooms must display the Ten Commandments on a donated poster or framed copy that meets specific size and legibility requirements.

The key points of the law state:

- Posters must contain only the text of the Ten Commandments (no additional content).
- Posters must be at least 16 inches wide by 20 inches tall.
- The wording and typeface must be large enough to be legible from anywhere in the classroom.
- Schools are not exempt from this requirement if posters are donated.

Attorney General Ken Paxton issued the following statement directing all Texas Independent School Districts (ISDs) not enjoined by ongoing litigation to display copies of the Ten Commandments once Senate Bill 10 takes effect on September 1, 2025.

The only school districts affected by the injunction are Alamo Heights, North East, Austin, Cypress Fairbanks, Lackland, Lake Travis, Fort Bend, Houston, Dripping Springs, Plano, and Northside. All other ISDs must abide by the law once it takes effect on September 1, 2025.

I. Action: N/A