

SENATE BILL 11 UPDATE

FEBRUARY 9, 2026



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **Senate Bill 11 (SB 11)** allows a school board to adopt a policy requiring every school to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text (“Daily Prayer Period”) in accordance with the law.
- A school board does not have to adopt a Daily Prayer Period, but a board does have to vote by **March 1, 2026**, on whether to adopt a resolution on the matter

WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A DAILY PRAYER PERIOD?

- **Required Consent:** The District must obtain and manage consent forms for participation.
- **Ensure only consenting participants hear the prayers or readings:** The District must ensure the prayer or reading is not in the presence or hearing of non-consenting students/staff.
- **Schedule the period for non-instructional time:** District policy must specify that a Daily Prayer Period may not be a substitute for instructional time.



CONSIDERATIONS OF SB 11

- **Affirms religious liberty:** Adopting SB 11 signals that the district supports the right to express their faith in a lawful, structured way during the school day.
- **State-provided legal support:** If the district is sued over SB 11, the Texas Attorney General must defend the district and cover legal costs.
- **Clear legal framework:** SB 11 provides guardrails (opt-in consent, no instructional time lost, no coercion) that could reduce inconsistent practices across campuses.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT POLICY ON PRAYER AND SB 11?

- Voluntary prayer is currently permitted in all schools:
 - Fellowship of Christian Athletes/Staff Bible Study
 - See You at the Pole
 - Prayer after football games
 - Daily Moment of Silence
- Adopting the SB 11 resolution creates a district-operated program, rather than a permissive environment. This shifts responsibility to the district for:
 - Managing consent
 - Preventing coercion
 - Ensuring physical and auditory separation
 - Maintaining ongoing compliance

WOULD OUR DISTRICT BE BANNING PRAYER IF THE BOARD DOES NOT ADOPT SB 11?

- The district fully complies with existing federal and state law that already protects every student's right to pray voluntarily at school.
- Students may pray individually or in groups, as long as participation is voluntary and non-disruptive.
- This board vote is about whether the district should operate and manage a formal prayer/reading period, not about allowing or denying prayer.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SB 11

- Consent form collection and tracking.
- Scheduling and space logistics to avoid “within hearing” of non-consenting students/staff.
- Staff training and compliance monitoring.
- Supervision coverage and potential compensation during the prayer/reading period (most likely before or after school).

QUESTIONS?

