

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA

Workshop

Regular

Special

(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B) Action Item

SAMUEL MIJARES, SUPERINTENDENT

Presenter(s): JESUS ARTURO COSTILLA, EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Briefly describe the action required.

Consider and take action on Resolution Senate Bill 11.

(C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

(D) **Clarification: Explain any questions or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**



TO: Samuel Mijares, Superintendent

FROM: Jesus Arturo Costilla, Executive Director for Human Resources

DATE: January 30, 2026

SUBJECT: Consider Resolution Related to SB 11

SB 11 (89th Legislature) authorizes, but does not require, a school district's Board of Trustees to adopt a local policy establishing a daily period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts on each campus. Adoption of such a policy requires a specific recorded vote of the Board.

After reviewing legal guidance, constitutional considerations, and community responsibilities, administration recommends that the Board decline to adopt a policy under SB 11, while affirming students' existing legal rights under state and federal law to engage in voluntary, student-initiated religious expression.

RESOLUTION

Declining to Adopt a Policy Under SB 11 Regarding a Period of Prayer and Reading of Religious Texts

WHEREAS, SB 11 (89th Legislature) authorizes the Board of Trustees to adopt a local policy requiring each campus to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a daily period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts; and

WHEREAS, SB 11 does not require school districts to adopt such a policy, and adoption remains solely at the discretion of each local Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and supports the rights of students to engage in voluntary, student-initiated, non-disruptive religious expression, including prayer, in accordance with state and federal law, including Texas Education Code §25.151 and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Board also recognizes its constitutional obligation to avoid actions that could be reasonably interpreted as the school district endorsing, promoting, directing, or organizing religious practices, consistent with longstanding Establishment Clause jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of the statutory option provided by SB 11, the Board finds that adopting a policy establishing a school-directed period of prayer and reading of religious texts is not necessary to protect or expand students' religious liberties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Trustees declines to adopt a policy under SB 11 establishing a daily period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious texts.
2. The Board affirms that students retain the right to voluntarily pray, read religious texts, or engage in other forms of religious expression, provided such activities are student initiated, non-disruptive, and conducted during appropriate non-instructional time.
3. The Board directs the Superintendent to continue ensuring that district practices remain neutral toward religion, neither promoting nor inhibiting religious expression, in full compliance with state and federal law.
4. This resolution shall be recorded in the Board's minutes as documentation of the district's formal action under SB 11.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2026.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees