



**Board of Trustees
Agenda Item**

Date	February 23, 2026
Agenda Item	Consider and Take Possible Action Regarding Resolution Related to Texas Education Code Section 25.0823, Senate Bill 11
Policy Reference	FNA(LEGAL), FNA(LOCAL)
Strategic Goal	Student Success, Engagement
Department	Administrative Services

Background Information:

During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 11 was passed, requiring school boards to take a vote on whether to adopt a policy establishing a designated period of prayer and religious reading for students and employees. SB11 became effective September 1, 2025. As stated in Section 3 of SB 11, “Not later than six months after the effective date of this Act, each board of trustees of a school district and each governing body of an open-enrollment charter school shall take a record vote on whether to adopt a resolution described by Section 25.0823(a-1), Education Code, as added by this Act.” In compliance with SB 11, Board action must be taken by March 1, 2026.

Current Law, District Policy and Student Rights:

Students already have robust constitutional and statutory rights to pray and engage in religious expression. These rights are well established under the First Amendment and Texas law and are fully honored in Boerne ISD. Board policies FNA (LEGAL) and FNA (LOCAL) policy have been in place prior to September 1, 2025, and speak to a student’s 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. Federal law, Texas statute, and local policy already allow students to pray, read religious texts, and organize religious clubs during non-instructional time. Student and staff rights to religious expression remain unchanged regardless of whether the Board adopts a SB 11 resolution.

Implementation Considerations:

Contingent on a resolution passing, SB 11 requires that a district policy meet specific requirements and restrictions. SB 11 requires parent/guardian or employee written consent and strict physical and auditory separation from non-participating students. SB 11 speaks to specifically providing a “daily” period of prayer, and as such is an all or nothing approach.

Summary:

State law, federal law, and Boerne ISD Board Policy already allow students to engage in prayer, reading of religious text, and religious expression on school property and during the school day.

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the proposed resolution regarding religious student expression which outlines Boerne ISD policies and practices that allow students to exercise their religious freedom, including the right to pray and read religious text on campus and reaffirms the District's commitment to upholding these rights.

Recommended by: Dr. John O’Hare, Chief Administrative Officer

Submitted by: Dr. John O’Hare, Chief Administrative Officer

Suggested Motion: I move that the Boerne ISD Board of Trustees approve the resolution [Option A or Option B] affirming student and employee rights to voluntary prayer, reflection, and reading religious texts.