

IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Working - BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5:00 PM

Irving ISD Board Room
2621 West Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

A G E N D A

- I. **CALL TO ORDER FOR 5:00 P.M. WORK SESSION**
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
 - A. Public Comment - Individuals Wishing to Address the Board on Agenda Items.
- III. Special Recognition
- IV. **DISCUSSION**
 - A. Receive Mental Health Presentation (A. Gomez) 3
 - B. Receive Presentation of SB-11 Prayer and Reading of Religious Text During the School Day (W. Nute) 29
 - C. Discuss Items on the February 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - The Board May Recess the Open Meeting and Reconvene in a Closed Meeting Pursuant to the Following Sections of the Texas Government Code and as Authorized by Sections 551.071-551.076 and 551.082-551.084 Therefore of
 - A. Section 551.071 - To Seek the Advice of the Board's Attorney About:
 - 1. Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Settlement Offer, or Matter Under Investigation.
 - 2. A Matter in Which the Professional Duty of the Attorney to the Board Conflicts with the Applicable Provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act.
 - B. Section 551.072 - To Deliberate the Purchase, Exchange, Sale, Lease or Value of Real Property if such Deliberation in Open Session Would Have a Detrimental Effect on the Board's Position in Negotiations with a Third Party.
 - C. Section 551.074 - To Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Resignation, Evaluation, Reassignment, Proposed Nonrenewals, Termination, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee; or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee.

D. Safety and Security — Discussion of District - Wide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings — District Vulnerability Assessment

VI. **RECONVENE** from Closed Meeting for Action Relative to Items Covered in Such Meeting.

A. Consider Action by the Board Related to Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Settlement Offer, or Matter Under Investigation.

B. Consider Action Regarding Purchase, Exchange, Sale, Lease or Value of Real Property.

C. Public Comments - Individuals Wishing to Address the Board or Make Comments Regarding Issues Not on the Agenda will be Heard at this Time.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**



WORK SESSION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

TOPIC

Receive Mental Health Presentation

PRESENTED BY

AHNA GOMEZ

BACKGROUND

The mental health needs of our students increase every school year. To address their needs, we have partnered with several agencies in the community to provide services to our students on campus. I will review the steps we have taken to ensure the wellbeing of our students.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ATTACHMENTS

Board Meeting 2.17.26-Mental Health.pptx

16.72MB

AGENDA SHEET

MEETING DATE

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

TOPIC

Receive Mental Health Presentation

\$1,000

EXTRA YEAR
TEACH



IRVING

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mental Health Services

Sofia Lopez
Director of At-Risk & Responsive Services

February 17, 2026

School Counselors & At-Risk Team

School Year 2024-2025

School Counselors

- 3 Pre-K Counselors
- 39 Elementary School Counselors
- 17 Middle School Counselors
- 30 High School Counselors
- 2 Newcomer Counselors

At-Risk & Responsive Services Department

- 1 LCDC (SRC)
- 4 Student Advocate Counselors
- 1 Project PASS Coordinator (Mckinney Vento)
- 1 Project PASS Intake Clerk
- 2 Project PASS Social Workers
- 1 Project PASS Social Worker
- 1 Handle With Care Specialist
- 1 CEHI/PRS Teacher

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School Counselors

Types of Services

- Guidance Lessons
 - Prevention topics
 - Psychoeducation
 - Awareness campaigns
- Referral system for teachers, students and staff to support students.
 - Counselor may provide check ins for the student
 - Include student in group counseling
 - Refer student to the Student Advocate Counselor for check-ins
 - Refer the student to outside resources
 - Consult with teachers, admin and parents to monitor progress.

Student Advocate Counselors

Types of Services provided

- Case Management for TAPPS students.
- Caseload of at-risk students at each of their feeder pattern schools.
- Part of the District Crisis Team
- Provide follow up for students that were referred to the threat assessment committees.
- Follow up on students that are referred by Irving PD for mental health related reports.
- Support with prevention campaigns. Ex: Red Ribbon Week, Kindness Week

Project PASS Social Workers McKinney Vento

Types of Services provided

- Case Management for all identified students
 - Connect families with utility assistance, rent assistance, shelters, health care services, mental health services, food pantries.
- Monitor grades, credits, attendance.
- Work closely with all seniors to complete their FAFSA/TAFSA and help them navigate other senior requirements to ensure that the students graduate on time.

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Handle With Care

Handle With Care

- “Trauma-informed program designed to support children exposed to trauma and violence. It aims to create safe and supportive environments in schools, homes, and communities, ensuring that children receive appropriate interventions to help them succeed academically and emotionally.” HWC ¹¹
- All campus staff goes through Trauma-Informed Training to equip them with tools in how to support students when they receive a Handle With Care notification.
- Handle With Care Specialist checks in with school counselors and if needed supports the family in getting the student referred to community resources.

Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor

SRC

- Works with all students that are sent to SRC for drug related offenses.
 - Provides individual check-ins, group sessions, family sessions.
 - Works with students on goal setting to ensure a successful return to home campus.
 - Works with the families to get them connected to resources to continue care after they complete the days at SRC.

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Counseling Sessions Frontline 2024-2025

Counseling Sessions Documented

- 41,152

Types of Services provided

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- Abuse-158
- Alongside/Bark-25
- Anger Management-895
- Anxiety-817
- APOWW-54
- Attendance-3,229
- Behavior-4,324
- Bullying-400
- Check-in-4,844
- Community Resource-2,891
- Coping Mechanisms-935
- Conflict Resolution-2,781
- Depression-78
- Emotional Regulation-2,676
- Follow-up- 2,721
- Grief Management-347
- Family Concerns/Issues-1,261
- Handle With Care-328
- Healthy Relationships-952
- Suicide Ideation/Self-harm-1,096

Irving Police Department 2024-2025

Irving PD-Mental Health Reports

- 338
- CRU-Crisis Response Unit ongoing collaboration

Types of Reports

- APOWW/Hospitalized-84
- Emotional Regulation-43
- Suicide/Self-harm-182
- Threats-9
- Incident Reports-20

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Threat Assessments Information 2024-2025

Threat Assessments

- 187
 - 67 Cases Screened
 - 83 Case Management Plans Developed
 - 18 Cases Closed
 - 5 Referral for Help
 - 14 Incomplete
- District Level Meetings
 - Departments
 - SPED, Campus Operations, Irving PD, Safety & Security, MTSS, PEIMS, Counseling, At-Risk
 - Review all cases and develop action plans to further support the campuses.

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Substance Misuse Prevention Services
 - Phoenix House
 - Youth 180
 - Recovery Resource Council
 - Impact Schools
- Types of Services Offered
 - Assemblies
 - Parent Workshops
 - Mentoring Services
 - Evidenced Based-Curriculum

Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Support Groups
 - Teen Life
 - Journey To Dream
 - YAM-Youth Aware of Mental Health
- Types of Services Offered
 - Evidence based programs for students in which they learn about and explore the topic of mental health

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Motivation
 - Girls Inc
 - All Things Made New
- Types of Services Offered
 - Groups focused on Economic Literacy, Leadership and Community Action, Media Literacy, College & Career Readiness, Friendly PEERsuasion, Healthy Relationships, STEM
 - Mentoring Services/Tutoring services after hours

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Psychoeducation Services
 - Exceptional Wellness
 - Pathways Mosaic
 - Helping Hands
 - Calabri Health
 - Freedom Medical Center
 - Metrocare Services
- Types of Services Offered
 - QMHPs (Qualified Mental Health Provider) provide psychoeducation to students to help them succeed in the classroom.

Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Counseling
 - Daybreak Health
 - TrueCare
 - TCHAT-Children's Health-FREE unlimited
 - Bridging the Gap-limited FREE spots
 - Momentous Institute-limited FREE spots
- Types of Services Offered
 - Licensed mental health providers offer therapy to our students.

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Partial Hospitalization Program
 - Mind Above Matter-located at Cardwell Prep
 - Middle School and High School students
- Types of Services Offered
 - Offered to students that are in need of more intensive outpatient treatment service. Offers a middle ground between inpatient hospitalization and traditional outpatient therapy.
 - Monday through Friday 4 hours/day
 - Individual therapy, group therapy, medication management, family therapy
- Last school year- 20 students successfully completed the program
- Current school year- 15 student successfully completed the program

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Alongside
 - “A digital platform that provides self-guided wellness tools to help navigate everyday challenges and build resilience. Personalized coaching happens via clinician-built chat modules that are responsive to each individual students’ preferences, concerns, reading level, and language. Students can also engage in journaling, watch educational videos, track healthy habits, identify emotional states, and give anonymous support (high fives) to other students. Alongside is not therapy.”-Alongside
 - Bowie, Lady Bird, De Zavala, Travis
- Stats for 2025-2026
 - Active Student Accounts-1,811
 - In-app Hours of Support-612
 - Activities Completed-8,094

Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Hope Squad
 - Hope Squad is an evidenced-based, peer-to-peer suicide prevention program built around the power of connection.
 - Singley, Bowie, Davis, Schulze

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Contracted Services Offered

MOUs With Community and Counseling Agencies

- Community Resources
 - Level Pathways
 - Trusted World
- Types of Services Offered
 - Provide support for our 18+ McKinney Vento Students
 - Clothing, food, and health insurance at low or no cost to our uninsured families.

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Youth Mental Health First Aid

House Bill 3

- Staff that interacts with students must be trained on Youth Mental Health First Aid
- 1,799 trained as of December 2025
- Timeframe
 - 2025-2026-25%
 - 2026-2027-50%
 - 2027-2028-75%
 - 2028-2029-100%

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Who should participate in the training?

- Teachers, coaches, librarians, instructional coaches, counselors, nurses, administrators, admin support personnel, student support staff, SROs, paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, custodians, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, crossing guards, SBTA members, At-Risk & Responsive Services team.

\$1,000

**EXTRA YARD
TEACHERS**

Sofia Lopez

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972-600-5027

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EXCELLENCE 

ACTION



WORK SESSION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

TOPIC:

Presentation of SB-11 Prayer and Reading of Religious Text During the School Day

PRESENTED BY:

WESLEY NUTE

BACKGROUND:

The 89th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 11, which requires that each school board in Texas take a record vote within six months of the effective date of the act, on whether to adopt a resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of religious text during the school day in accordance with Texas Education Code § 25.0823. If a school board decides to adopt such a resolution, the period of prayer and religious reading must follow the provisions set out in Section 25.0823, which includes the following restrictions:

- To participate in the period of prayer and religious reading, a student's parents must submit a signed consent, expressly waiving their right to bring a legal claim on a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- The prayer and religious reading must not be done in the physical presence or hearing of a person for whom a signed consent was not made.
- The prayer and religious reading may only be observed in segregated areas where consenting parties are separated from non-consenting parties; before the school day; or by methods recommended by the Texas Attorney General or the district's legal counsel.

State law, federal law, and Irving 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.

Citing legal authority, Board Policy FNA (LEGAL) states: "A public school student has 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. A student shall not be required, encouraged, or coerced to engage in or refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity. . . Nothing in the Constitution as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court prohibits any public school student from voluntarily praying at any

time before, during, or after the school day..."

Board Policy FNA (LOCAL) states: "The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious...viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular, religious, or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious...or other viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject." Students already have well established rights to engage in religious expression on school grounds, before, during, and after school. Irving ISD has policies and practices in place to allow students to exercise those rights. Students are free to continue exercising these rights, whether or not the Board adopts the resolution proposed in Section 25.0823.

\$1,000

EXTRA YARD
TEACHERS

SB 11 – Prayer and Reading of Religious Text During the School Day

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Background Information

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The 89th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 11, which requires that each school board in Texas take a record vote within six months of the effective date of the act, on whether to adopt a resolution regarding a period of prayer and reading of religious text during the school day in accordance with Texas Education Code § 25.0823.

Requirements of SB 11

- To participate in the period of prayer and religious reading, a student's parents must submit a signed consent, expressly waiving their right to bring a legal claim on a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- The prayer and religious reading must not be done in the physical presence or hearing of a person for whom a signed consent was not made.
- The prayer and religious reading may only be observed in segregated areas where consenting parties are separated from non-consenting parties; before the school day; or by methods recommended by the Texas Attorney General or the district's legal counsel.

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Current Practices by Irving Independent School District

State law, federal law, and Irving Independent School District Board Policy expressly allows students to engage in prayer, reading of religious text, and religious expression on school property and during the school day.

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Board Policy FNA (Local): “The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious, political, educational, or other viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular, religious, or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious, political, or other viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.”

- This policy also allows for students to organize prayer groups, religious clubs, and religious gatherings, before, during, and after school, the same way as other noncurricular student groups.

Student Religious Rights

Students in Irving Independent School District have organized religious clubs which have faculty sponsors, meet on campus, and advertise the same way as non-religious clubs.

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- The rights of students to pray and read scripture is well established within the First Amendment which protects religious expression of individuals.
- The Supreme Court has established this in *Engle v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962).
- Nothing prohibits students from reviewing scripture and praying during the school day. If a student needs a safe, quiet place to pray or practice their faith, the campus will provide these accommodations.

Employee Religious Rights

- Employees are permitted to discuss their faith and meet in prayer groups so long as they are not imposing their faith on others or harassing others.
- A school employee has a right to engage in private personal prayer during work so long as students are otherwise occupied.
- Title VII – Employees may request accommodations to engage in religious expression.

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Restrictions Imposed by SB 11

- To participate in SB 11 prayer and reading, a student's parent must sign a written consent waiving their right to challenge violation of the Establishment Clause of U.S. Constitution.
- Prayer and reading must not be done in the physical presence or in the hearing of those who did not sign a written consent
 - Encourages the segregation of students.
- There is no differentiation for the implementation of SB 11 in the elementary, middle, and high school grades.

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EXCELLENCE  **ACTION**

