

FACT SHEET

What to know about the Ten Commandments law in Texas

What is the Ten Commandments law?

Senate Bill 10, also known as “SB 10” or the “Ten Commandments law”, is a Texas law passed in 2025 that requires school districts to post the Ten Commandments in a “conspicuous” place in every public school classroom in Texas, subject to limited exceptions. Schools are not required to purchase their own copies, **but they are required to accept donations that meet the parameters laid out in the law.** In other words, if a poster is donated and it meets the parameters, the school must display it.

What are the parameters?

- The Ten Commandments must be both framed and printed to a size of at least 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall.
- The poster must be visible and legible for “a person with average vision” from anywhere in the classroom.
- It must be the King James translation of the Ten Commandments.
- Any public school that does not provide a framed copy of the Ten Commandments is required to accept and display any donation provided.

Why is the Ten Commandments law a problem?

- Students in public schools cannot avoid exposure to religious instruction placed on classroom walls.
- The establishment clause in the first amendment clearly prohibits the government from indoctrinating students with a specific religion in public schools and this law contains no safeguards for indoctrination.
- It excludes students of other faiths and other Christian denominations by selecting a preferred version of the Ten Commandments (the King James translation).

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;....

Why should you care?

Public school students represent many faith traditions. To require the posting of only **one version** of **one religion’s** sacred texts is impeding on the religious freedom of every student. The faith that a student chooses to adhere to should be decided at home, with their family, and in their place of worship.

SENATE BILL 10: ANNOTATED

Below is the required version of the Ten Commandments. Let's break it down:

No secular educational purpose is noted on the required posting

**The Ten Commandments
I AM the LORD thy God.**

**Thou shalt ave no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven
image.**

**Thou shalt not takw the Name of the Lord
thy God in vain.**

**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it
holy.**

**Honor thy father and they mother that thy
days may be long upon the
land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

**Thou shalt not bear false witness against
thy neighbor.**

Thou shalt not covent thy neighbor's house.

**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife,
nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,
nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy
neighbor's.**

The language in the beginning is directed toward Texas students, the reader, therefore promoting one religion over another.

The posting requirement for any Texas classroom that receives a donation inherently causes excessive government entanglement with religion.