

Stopping State-Organized Prayer

SB11 is a Texas law passed in 2025 that allows school districts and charter schools to vote on whether to adopt a policy creating a daily time for voluntary prayer and religious text reading on campus.

What does the law do?

- Allows school boards to vote to create a daily prayer period for students and staff.
- Says the prayer can involve readings from *"the Bible or other religious text."*
- If requested, the Texas Attorney General will provide legal advice and sample forms.

If adopted, a policy requires:

- Only students and staff with a signed consent form may participate.
- The consent form must include a waiver of the right to sue under state or federal law, including the U.S. Constitution.
- Prayers can't be broadcast over intercom systems.
- The prayer time can't replace class time.
- Schools must:
 - Keep track of signed forms.
 - Ensure no one hears or sees a prayer without consent.
 - Allow people to revoke their consent.

What's the problem with the law?

- Creates legal uncertainty: No clear rules on which prayers, texts, or leaders are allowed.
- Invites division: Students will be separated or excluded based on religious background or waiver status.
- Shifts responsibility: School staff, not clergy, must manage religious practices.
- Undermines local control: Pressures school boards to adopt a policy designed by the state legislature.

Frequently asked questions:

Q: Who leads the prayer?

A: The law doesn't say. School staff? Outside clergy? It's unclear.

Q: Which texts are allowed?

A: Any religious text, including the Bible, Quran, Torah, etc., if the school allows it.

Q: What if a student doesn't have a signed waiver?

A: They may not attend, hear, or be in the presence of the prayer period.

Q: Can students already pray at school?

A: Yes. Students already have full rights to pray, read religious texts, and express their faith under existing law.

Key dates

- Law effective date: September 1, 2025
- Deadline for school boards to vote to adopt a policy: March 1, 2026 (approx.)