



## Senate Bill 11

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## BACKGROUND

SB 11 from the 89th regular legislative session requires school boards to consider whether to adopt a policy requiring every campus of the district to provide students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text on each school day. In order to avoid violations of the United States Constitution, such a policy would have specific constraints on the practice as set forth in SB 11. For example, a policy adopted under this law would require all student participants to provide written parent consent and all participants (both employees and students) to expressly waive their constitutional rights under the First Amendment in order to participate. The policy would also require that the period of prayer and reading of religious text be held outside of class time.



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SB 11 **does not** require the CSISD Board of Trustees to adopt a policy. It requires the Board to take a record vote on *whether to adopt a resolution* stating that they will adopt a policy. The legislature in fact provided the language of the resolution:

“The College Station ISD shall adopt a policy requiring every campus of College Station ISD to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Section 25.0823, Education Code.”

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the College Station Independent School District Board of Trustees decline to adopt a resolution committing to adopting a policy requiring every campus of College Station ISD to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text. Specifically, it is recommended that the Board entertain the following motion:

While we do not typically take action *not* to do something, the legislature requires it in this

