

Texas Senate Just Took a Historic Step That Could Bring Prayer Back to Public Schools

The Texas Senate discussed a bill this week to allow prayer in public schools.

While the legislation does not mandate prayer, school districts would “adopt a policy requiring every campus of the district or school 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,” Senate Bill 11 says.

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Senate Bill 11 allows prayer in school while another bill, Senate Bill 10, requires the 10 Commandments to be displayed in classrooms. SB 11 passed 23-7 this week and will now be considered by the Texas House.

SB 10 has yet to receive a final vote.

“Thank you President Trump and Lt. Governor Patrick for making prayer in public schools a top priority,” SB 11 author, State Sen. Mayes Middleton, said in a statement. “There is no such thing as ‘separation of church and state’ in our Constitution, and recent Supreme Court decisions by President Trump’s appointees reaffirmed this. The goal of this bill is to promote freedom of religion for teachers and students in the place where they spend most of their time—school.”

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“Religious freedom is a bedrock principle upon which America was founded, recognizing our rights come directly from God, not the government. I prioritized SB 11 to make sure religious freedom is not infringed upon in Texas, ensuring our students and educators have the right to pray on school grounds,” Patrick said. “I thank Sen. Middleton for carrying this bill and for senators on both sides of the aisle for their support on this critical legislation.”

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My statement on the passage of Senate Bill 11, Protecting the Freedom to Pray in Schools: #txlege

*– Office of the Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick (@LtGovTX)
March 18, 2025*

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