KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION IN KATY ISD SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Section 25.0823(a-1) of the Texas Education Code permits the board of trustees of a school district to approve a resolution on whether to require 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 religious texts on each school day; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 11 requires each school board to take a record vote between September 1, 2025 and March 1, 2026 on whether to adopt such a policy; and

WHEREAS, none of this was previously necessary here, as Katy ISD has a long history and tradition of allowing students and teachers to meet at times and manners to pray of their own choosing; and

WHEREAS, the Free Exercise Clause of First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affords students and school district employees with rights, though not unfettered, to freely exercise their religious beliefs, which may include prayer and reading of religious texts in schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees acknowledges and supports the rights of students to engage in voluntary, student-initiated, non-disruptive religious expression, including prayer, in accordance with state and federal law, including Texas Education Code §25.151, the Equal Access Act, and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, Section 25.082 (d) of the Texas Education Code establishes a minute of silence in public schools when students may choose to "reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity" and Katy ISD already complies with this each school day after the pledges;

WHEREAS, Katy ISD does not prohibit religious speech. Rather we allow students and teachers to continue to meet and engage in such speech and we do not want to limit that by placing a time, place or manner restriction on prayer; and

WHEREAS, revising or creating this policy may place very limiting factors around the times a student could pray or read scripture and may have the effect of labeling or separating students by belief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board affirms that students retain the right to voluntarily pray, read religious texts, or engage in other forms of religious expression, provided such activities are student initiated, non-disruptive, and conducted during appropriate non-instructional time.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent to distribute this resolution to all teachers and staff and to continue ensuring that district practices remain to support religious expression, in full compliance with state and federal law.
3. The Board of Trustees of the Katy Independent School District will not 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 religious texts on each school day, as our policies already allow and protect prayer.

4. This resolution shall be recorded in the Board's minutes as documentation of the district's formal action under SB 11.

PRESENTED and passed this __th day of March 2026, by a vote of 7 Ayes and 0 Nays by the Board of Trustees of the Katy ISD.

KATY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lance Redmon
Katy ISD Board President

Dawn Champagne
Katy ISD Board Secretary