

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1422

By: Alvord

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2021,  
8 Section 11-101.1, which relates to voluntary prayer;  
9 extending certain requirement to governing bodies of  
10 charter schools; requiring boards of education of  
11 public school districts and governing bodies of  
12 public charter schools to adopt certain policy  
13 regarding certain period of prayer and reading;  
14 requiring policy to contain certain provisions;  
allowing certain employee or student to revoke  
certain consent; requiring the Attorney General to  
take certain actions upon request of certain board of  
education or governing body; providing certain  
construction; updating statutory reference; providing  
an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

15  
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-101.1, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Section 11-101.1. A. The board of education of each public  
20 school district and the governing body of each public charter school  
21 shall permit those students and ~~teachers~~ employees who wish to do so  
22 to participate in voluntary prayer.

23 B. The board of education of each public school district and  
the governing body of each public charter school shall adopt a

1 policy requiring that students and employees be given an opportunity  
2 to participate in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or  
3 other religious text during each school day. The policy adopted  
4 pursuant to this subsection:

5 1. Shall contain the following statement: "It is the policy of  
6 (name of public school district or public charter school) that every  
7 student and employee be provided a period of prayer and reading of  
8 the Bible or other religious text.";

9 2. Shall require, as a condition of participation in a period  
10 of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text, that an  
11 employee or the parent or legal guardian of a student submit to the  
12 school district or charter school a signed consent form that  
13 includes:

- 14 a. an acknowledgment that the student or employee has a  
15 choice whether to participate,
- 16 b. a statement that the employee or the parent or legal  
17 guardian of the student has no objection to the  
18 student participating in or hearing the prayers or  
19 readings offered during the period, and
- 20 c. an express waiver of the right to bring a claim  
21 arising out of the adoption of a policy pursuant to  
22 the provisions of this section including a claim under  
23 the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the  
24 United States Constitution or related state or federal

law. The waiver shall release the school district or  
charter school and its employees from liability for  
such claims brought in state or federal court;

3. Shall prohibit the provision of a prayer or reading of the

Bible or other religious text over a public address system;

4. Shall specify that a period of prayer and reading of the

Bible or other religious text may not be a substitute for

instructional time;

5. Shall include provisions ensuring a prayer or reading of the

Bible or other religious text is not knowingly or intentionally

provided in the physical presence of, within hearing of, or in

another manner that would constitute an injury in fact within the

meaning of the United States Constitution or the Oklahoma

Constitution on a person for whom a signed consent form has been filed.

submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section or

has been revoked pursuant to subsection C of this section;

6 May allow that the period of prayer and reading of

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WHO have all submitted signed consent forms as provided by paragraph

2 of this subsection, and

7. May provide opportunities for voluntary participation in

Individual or group activities.

1       C. A public school district or public charter school employee  
2       or the parent or legal guardian of a public school district or  
3       public charter school student may revoke the signed consent form  
4       provided pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section at  
5       any time by providing written notification to the school district or  
6       charter school. A school district or charter school employee who  
7       has revoked a signed consent form or a student whose parent or legal  
8       guardian has revoked a signed consent form:

- 9       1. Shall not participate in the period of prayer and reading of  
10      the Bible or other religious text; and
- 11      2. Shall remain subject to the waiver provided by subparagraph  
12      c of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section.

13       D. Upon request from the board of education of a public school  
14      district or the governing body of a public charter school, the  
15      Attorney General shall:

- 16      1. Provide advice on best methods for a school district or  
17      charter school to comply with the requirements of this section;
- 18      2. Provide a model signed consent form that may be used to  
19      comply with the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection B of this  
20      section; and
- 21      3. Defend the school district or charter school in a cause of  
22      action arising out of the adoption of a policy required by this  
23      section. The state shall be liable for the expenses, costs,

1 judgments, or settlements of claims arising pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 E. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit a public  
4 school district or public charter school employee or student from  
5 participating in a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or  
6 other religious text during a time and place not designated by the  
7 policy adopted pursuant to this section.

8 F. Nothing in this act shall be construed to be in conflict  
9 with Section 11-101 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

11 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
12 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby  
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16 60-2-2559 EB 1/6/2026 12:24:35 PM