



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Returning God's Word and Commandments to Public Schools

In 2025 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate voted to require the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Gov. Greg Abbott signed the law which requires a poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments be displayed without additional content.

Since 2021 there have been a total of 26 states considering bills asking for the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public schools. Of the bills that have been signed by state governors, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama have required the display of the Ten Commandments in schools. The state legislators who have backed the display assert that the Ten Commandments are of great historical significance to the founding principles and to the system of laws established in our nation.

On June 26, 2026, the Texas State Board of Education approved a required reading list for the state's 5.4 million public school students, kindergarten through 12th grade which adds to classic literature selections from Scripture: Jonah and David and Goliath in early grades to Job and the Sermon on the Mount.

Some critics of the Texas law compare it to the recent Montgomery County case where the Supreme Court's opinion was that children could not be forced to sit through LGBTQ themed lessons without giving the parents the opportunity to be informed of the material and to opt out for their children. However, the Montgomery County case's opinion was a protection of the parental right to determine the religious formation of their own children.

The Texas law will test the presentation of the Bible as worthy of study to its historic and literary qualities as were described by the 1963 Supreme Court decision [Abington School District v. Schempp](#) which held that devotional Bible readings were unconstitutional but the Bible remained worthy of study for its literary and historic lessons.

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/msbhf7ba> <https://tinyurl.com/yp8mer9m>

"For no people will tamely surrender their liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved."

Samuel Adams, 1775