

RESOLUTION

Regulating Flag Displays in Public Schools

Political or ideological displays should have no place in public school classrooms.

In recent years, disputes over symbols such as Pride flags, Black Lives Matter banners, Blue Lives Matter flags, and Confederate flags have led to administrative bans, protests, and lawsuits. For example, at a high school in north Texas, administrators removed rainbow "safe space" stickers and Pride flags, prompting a student walkout. Similar incidents across the state illustrate the divisiveness and disruption that competing political symbols can generate in school settings.

Texas law already emphasizes patriotism in schools by requiring daily recitations of the U.S. and Texas Pledges of Allegiance and prominently displaying both flags (Section 25.082, Education Code). However, courts have ruled that schools may regulate speech that causes substantial disruption (*Tinker v. Des Moines*, 1969). In *Melton v. Young* (6th Cir. 1972), a federal court upheld a ban on Confederate flag clothing, citing its potential to incite racial discord. These rulings affirm that while students have free speech rights, schools have the authority to limit displays that interfere with education.

Displaying political symbols in classrooms amounts to implicit school endorsement, potentially making some students feel alienated or pressured. Teachers' classroom decorations and flags displayed on school grounds carry the school's imprimatur, which should remain politically neutral. A Black Lives Matter poster, a Blue Lives Matter flag, or a Confederate flag might be intended as supportive speech by some but could be perceived as divisive by others. Some schools allow partisan messaging that distracts from curriculum and stirs division, while others face backlash over removing such items.

Be it Resolved: Legislation must be passed that ensures schools prioritize education and shared civic values by establishing a uniform standard that prevents political symbol conflicts, maintaining a neutral learning environment.

Adopted by the Precinct _____ Convention of _____ County on March _____, 2026.

Adopted by the SD _____ Convention of _____ County on March _____, 2026 **OR**

Adopted by the _____ County Convention on March 28, 2026.