



# SNAKE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

## IDAHO'S MOMENT OF SILENCE

Beginning July 1, 2026, Idaho public schools are required to provide a daily 60-second moment of silence at the beginning of each school day in accordance with House Bill 623 (H623). This handout explains what families and students can expect at Snake River School District schools during the 2026-2027 school year.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

At the beginning of each school day, students will be given one minute of quiet time. A staff member will announce the beginning and end of the minute. Students will remain quiet and respectful during the 60 seconds.

Students may use the minute to:

- Reflect or gather their thoughts
- Meditate
- Pray silently
- Think about a goal for the day
- Engage in another QUIET activity of their choosing

There is no required way to use this time.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Is participation required?

The school is required to provide the moment of silence. Students are expected to remain respectful and non-disruptive, but they are not required to pray or participate in any particular activity.

#### Will teachers tell students what to think about or do?

**No.** Staff will not direct students to pray, meditate, reflect, or participate in a specific activity. Staff may begin and end the 60-second period and maintain a respectful environment.

#### Can students pray during the moment of silence?

**Yes.** Students may silently pray if they choose.

#### Can students choose not to pray?

**Yes.** The moment is student-directed. Students may use the time for any silent activity permitted by law.

#### Can teachers lead breathing or mindfulness activities?

**No.** Staff may not guide students through breathing exercises, meditation, prayer, or reflection during the designated minute.

### WHAT IF A STUDENT TALKS OR DISRUPTS THE MOMENT?

Students are expected to follow normal school expectations for respectful and non-disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior may be addressed using regular classroom or school procedures.

### WHY ARE FAMILIES BEING NOTIFIED?

Idaho law requires schools to notify parents and guardians so families can discuss with their child how they would like to use this time. We encourage you to have that conversation before the school year begins.

**ONE MINUTE • ONE CHOICE • ONE QUIET START**

Our commitment: Snake River School District will implement this requirement in a respectful, inclusive manner consistent with Idaho law. We recognize that our students and families have different beliefs, backgrounds, and perspectives. Our staff will not tell students what to think, believe, or do during this minute.

Questions? Please contact your student's school office or the Snake River School District Office.