

# Gateways *Insider*

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For Friends of Gateways to Better Education

## Because of you, public school students are being equipped to pray *in class!*

By Eric Buehrer



Earlier this year, a judge ruled that a 4-foot by 8-foot “School Prayer Banner” that hung in a Rhode Island public high school since 1963 had to be taken down. On January 12, U.S. District Judge Ronald Lagueux ruled that the banner hanging in Cranston High School West was unconstitutional.

Jessica Ahlquist, the 16-year-old atheist who initiated the action to have the banner removed, has been hailed as a hero among the “atheist culture.” In March, she was a featured speaker at the first atheist rally where a reported 20,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C.

In a blog, I recommended that the students of Cranston High School West meditate on the words of the prayer each day. I said, “It’s time for the students to take the prayer down from the gymnasium wall where it has been collecting dust, and actually recite it daily.”

How can they do that, you may ask?

Well, Rhode Island has a law *requiring* a daily moment of silent meditation. It reads as follows:

“16-12-3.1 Period of silent meditation. — At the opening of every school day in all grades in all public schools the teacher in charge of the room in which each class is held shall announce that a period of silence not to exceed one minute in duration shall be observed for meditation, and during this period silence shall be maintained and no activities engaged in.”

### How to Use the School Prayer Card

- Visit our website to see if your state requires schools to have moment of silence. If your state has such a law, but your school isn’t doing it, we explain how to get it reinstated. If your school does not have a moment of silence, you use the prayer cards to encourage students to pray the prayer anyway.
- Purchase a set of cards for your school Bible club.
- Ask your church to purchase cards for every public school student in your congregation.

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Thanks to the dust-up that atheist Ahlquist and her ACLU allies caused, we did a little research and found that thirty-four states either allow or *mandate* a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day. In other words, millions of public school students can begin their day with an opening prayer in the classroom. *So, we decided to help them actually use that time to pray.* Thus, the School Prayer Card was born!

A core value at Gateways to Better Education is to develop creative solutions to keep God in our schools. We recently created a small

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card that students can keep in their pockets or binders. During the moment of silence at school, they can use the card to silently recite the prayer.

As word got out about our School Prayer Card, youth leaders began responding. For example, Pat from Norfolk, VA, wrote “I love the school prayer and plan to distribute it to all my teens.”

Thank you for being a gateway to better education for students in these thirty-four states! Our promotion of the prayer card has just begun. Our goal is that the very prayer atheists demanded be torn from the walls of one high school, will now be prayed in thousands of schools across the country. ■

School Prayer	
Heavenly Father,	
Grant me each day the desire to do my best,	
To grow mentally and morally as well as physically,	
To be kind and helpful to my classmates and teachers,	
To be honest with myself as well as with others,	
Help me to be a good sport and smile when I lose as well as when I win,	
Teach me the value of true friendship,	
Help me always to conduct myself so as to bring credit to my school.	
Amen	www.gtbe.org

Shown actual size (3.5" x 2")

Download a free sheet of School Prayer Cards that you can print out and distribute. Or, for your convenience, order them online for only \$15/100. Visit [www.gtbe.org](http://www.gtbe.org)



**Gateways**  
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Keeping the Faith in Public Schools

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