

ABOUT ATPE

OUR HISTORY AND OUR MISSION

In 1980, approximately 18,000 educators committed to the right to work and the right to choose one's professional association came together to form the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

Today, with more than 110,000 members, ATPE is the preeminent educator association in Texas and the largest nonunion educator association in the United States. In partnership with all stakeholders, we are committed to providing every child an equal opportunity to receive an exemplary public education.

ATPE believes in representing all public educators and remains the only Texas educator group to welcome all members of the education community. Most ATPE members are classroom teachers, but ATPE's membership also includes administrators, support personnel (aides, bus drivers, custodial workers, etc.), retired teachers, college students and friends of public education.

ATPE seeks to promote professionalism among educators and works to ensure that the children of Texas are decision makers' foremost concern. ATPE's team of full-time lobbyists plays an instrumental role in promoting the development of sound education policy in the Texas Legislature and state agencies.



ATPE'S LOBBY TEAM

The ATPE Lobby Team has more than 130 years of experience advocating for Texas public school students and educators. The team includes a past chair of the House Public Education Committee and former legislative staffers. Lobbyists pictured are Josh Sanderson, Jennifer Canaday, Monty Exter, Brock Gregg, Kate Kuhlmann and Sen. Bill Haley. The team also includes David Pore and ATPE Executive Director Doug Rogers. Contact any member of the ATPE Lobby Team by calling (800) 777-2873 or emailing government@atpe.org.



SUPPORTING YOUR FREEDOM TO TEACHSM

ATPE'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 83RD LEGISLATURE



The Association of Texas Professional Educators is committed to providing every child an equal opportunity to receive an exemplary public education.



ATPE'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 83RD LEGISLATIVE SESSION



ATPE SUPPORTS restoring funds that were cut from the public education budget in 2011, building a more stable and equitable school finance structure, and providing sufficient revenue to meet the educational needs of our growing population.



ATPE OPPOSES any type of voucher, scholarship, tax credit or similar program that would facilitate the use of public tax dollars for private, home or for-profit schools.



ATPE URGES the Legislature to maintain the existing defined benefit structure of the Teacher Retirement System. We support using contributions from the state and educators to ensure the pension fund's actuarial soundness and the ability to improve and preserve benefits for its members.



ATPE SUPPORTS reforming the accountability system with educator input to reverse the trend of overreliance on high-stakes standardized test scores as the primary measure of student achievement, educator effectiveness and school performance.



ATPE SUPPORTS initiatives to ensure that educators are selectively recruited, well-prepared to enter the classroom and adequately supported in their first years of teaching. We urge the Legislature to create a state-funded mentoring program for all new teachers and to allow an independent board made up of Texas educators to set and enforce high standards for educator certification and conduct.



Teach the Vote

We launched our newest advocacy resource, *TeachtheVote.org*, in anticipation of the 2012 election cycle and the 83rd Legislature. *TeachtheVote.org* is a resource for all Texans, not just ATPE members. Visit the website to learn more about ATPE's legislative priorities, view officeholder profiles and stay up-to-date on the latest education news.

TEACHTHEVOTE.ORG

» VIEW THE COMPLETE ATPE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AT ATPE.ORG.