Input on HB 2344
Regarding required writing assessments and a portfolio method of assessment

March 30, 2021

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** appreciates this opportunity to provide our support and input on House Bill (HB) 2344 by Rep. Erin Zwiener.

HB 2344 would allow for the non-multiple-choice portion of required writing assessments to be used as part of a classroom portfolio method of assessment. Under HB 2344, Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath would adopt rules to allow certain teachers to score the assessments.

HB 2344 supports the positions on education issues written and approved annually by the ATPE House of Delegates, comprising teachers across Texas. These positions in the ATPE Legislative Program include the following testing-specific statements:

- ATPE supports a testing and accountability system developed with educator input that maximizes student learning and helps educators meet the individual needs of students.

- ATPE opposes the use of high-stakes tests as the sole measure of student achievement.

HB 2344 would build upon the work of the Texas Writing Pilot Program, instituted through HB 1164 of the 84th Texas Legislature, and leverage the changes to the structure of writing assessments instated through HB 3906 of the 86th Texas Legislature.

Because writing assessments will now incorporate a non-multiple-choice portion, it would be beneficial to allow students to complete this portion throughout the school year and receive immediate teacher feedback rather than adhering to a rigid and formulaic essay task on test days. Additionally, since teachers will be involved in the grading of the writing portfolio, they will be better positioned to understand student performance at their campus and appropriately adjust instruction to meet the needs of students.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input on HB 2344. For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org.

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