



## Input on SB 2124

Relating to the Advanced Math Pathway Program for Middle School Students

August 12, 2024

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input on SB 2124:

ATPE conducted a survey of our membership in late July 2024. Of the members who responded to the survey, 52% said they had seen increased interest from parents and students in participating in advanced math. Respondents shared that their schools used a variety of factors other than STAAR scores to determine which students would be enrolled in advanced math, including MAP testing, parent interest, and teacher recommendation.

64% of ATPE's respondents said they felt the program overall is a benefit to their students. 92% said that they did not feel the program had increased their overall workload or created a burden for them as an educator. 78% of respondents said that their school offered tutoring and remediation for students who struggled in the program.

Members did express a few concerns about the program. 37% said they felt the program, while beneficial, placed too much pressure on students and that students who were not ready were often placed in the program. Many of these respondents felt that the qualification to enter the program (top 40%) allowed too many students to qualify, including many who they felt could not keep up with the requirements. Concerns included student loss of self-esteem and worry that students would lose their love of math.

Members expressed that they felt the program could be improved upon by expanding it to allow students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to qualify as well, even if they did not qualify in an earlier grade; providing more scaffolding and supports to students; and giving more discretion to math teachers to recommend students to the program rather than using a cut score. 24% of respondents said their school had not done a good job of publicizing the program or attempting to attract additional parent interest, and they felt doing so would create more interest in the program. Overall, however, ATPE members are satisfied with the direction of the advanced math pathway so far, with many saying it has been a net positive for their school and classroom.

For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or [government@atpe.org](mailto:government@atpe.org).

*The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with approximately 90,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for 5 million public schoolchildren. ATPE is the ally and the voice of Texas public school educators.*