

# Proposed Amendment No. 1 (2025) to the ATPE State Bylaws

Amend the following sections of the bylaws as shown below:

## Article III: Membership

### Section 4: Classes of Members

ATPE shall have seven (7) classes of members. ....

(a) **Professional Members.** Those educators who meet the following qualifications:

- (1) are employed in Texas by a public school district, institution of higher education, Regional Education Service Center, or the Texas Education Agency in a capacity defined yearly by the Board of Directors, or
- (2) ~~who~~ are life members, or
- (3) are participating in a paid residency or internship while completing an educator preparation program in Texas.

(b) **Administrator Members.** ....

(c) ~~Retired~~ **Retiree Members.** Those persons who are retired from an active position in the public education profession after working in the public education profession for at least 10 years and who receive, have received, or are eligible to receive a benefit from a recognized pension program.

(d) **Associate Members.** ....

(e) ~~Student~~ **Clinical Teacher Members.** ~~Those students~~ Teacher certification candidates enrolled in a ~~state-approved educator preparation~~ teacher education program in an ~~accredited~~ college, university or ~~alternative certification program~~ who will be engaged in observation, clinical or student teaching, ~~an~~ unpaid residency, and/or other uncompensated field experience in a Texas public school during the membership year.

(f) **Public Education Supporter Members.** Those persons ~~not eligible for or not belonging to any~~ other ~~class of ATPE membership~~ ~~than the foregoing~~ who are interested in public education and wish to support the mission of ATPE.

(g) **College Student Members.** Individuals enrolled in an accredited college or university training program who are preparing to enter the field of education but who will not be involved in the clinical or student teaching experience.

*(amended 10<sup>9</sup> times, last amended 2/22/25 9/24/22)*

### Section 6: Voting Rights

A Professional, Administrator, ~~Retired~~ **Retiree**, Associate, ~~Student~~ **Clinical Teacher**, or College Student member with ATPE shall be entitled to vote when a matter is submitted to such vote. The only voting rights accorded to the membership of ATPE shall be to participate in the election of directors and regional officers through their respective regional organizations ~~and to participate in referendums as outlined in Article XVI, Section 3.~~

No proxy voting shall be recognized.

*(amended 6<sup>5</sup> times, last amended 2/22/25 9/24/22)*

## **Article IV: Officers**

### **Section 3: Nomination and Election**

- (a) **Nominating Committee:** The Board of Directors shall...
- (b) **Qualifications:** A candidate for ATPE state office must be an active Professional, Administrator, ~~Retired~~Retiree, or Associate member of the association and ....

*(amended ~~14~~13 times, last amended 2/22/25~~9/24/22~~)*

## **Article VIII: Regional Organizations**

### **Section 6: Term of Office**

The president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer of the regional organization shall hold office from August 1 following their election through the next July 31. The Director shall be elected for a two-year (2) term as provided in Article V, Section 29.

*(amended 2 times, last amended 2/22/25~~7/21/11~~; editorial change made 7/16/12)*

## **Article IX: House of Delegates**

### **Section 2: Composition**

The House of Delegates shall include ...

- (e) Delegates selected by each recognized local unit .... Each local may select, pursuant to its own bylaws:
  - (1) one voting Professional Member...
  - (2) one voting Administrator Member...
  - (3) one voting Associate Member...
  - (4) one voting ~~Retired~~Retiree Member delegate for each twenty-five (25) of its ~~Retired~~Retiree Members, or major fraction thereof.
  - (5) one voting ~~Student~~Clinical Teacher/College Student Member delegate for each twenty-five (25) of its ~~Student~~Clinical Teacher/College Student Members, or major fraction thereof.  
(~~Student~~Clinical Teacher and College Student Members shall be considered one (1) membership classification for the purpose of delegate selection.)
- (f) Associate and ~~Retired~~Retiree Members who hold office in the local unit or who serve as campus representatives may be certified as voting delegates in the Professional Member category in the event the number of Professional Member delegates attending from a local unit is less than the number allotted under Subsection (e)(1).
- (g) At-large member delegates...

(h) Notwithstanding (a) through (g) above, each local unit shall be allowed to select a minimum of one (1) Professional Member delegate, one (1) Administrator Member delegate, one (1) Associate Member delegate, one (1) ~~Retired Retiree~~ Member delegate, and one (1) ~~Student~~ Clinical Teacher/College Student Member delegate.

(i) No member of the House of Delegates shall have more than one vote.

(amended 14~~4~~<sup>3</sup> times, last amended 2/22/25~~9/24/22~~)

## **Section 9: Certification of Delegates**

(a) The State President shall....

(b) Each Region President shall ....

(c) Each Local Unit President shall be responsible for certifying the names of Local Unit delegates and alternates to the ATPE State Secretary. In the absence of a Local Unit President, the Local Unit Vice President may certify the names of Local Unit delegates. In the absence of a College/University Local Unit president or vice president, the region president or vice president may certify the names of college student/~~student~~ clinical teacher delegates in consultation with the college/university sponsor.

(d) The deadline for certification ....

(amended 8~~7~~ times, last amended 2/22/25~~9/24/22~~)

## **CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE**

**Certified** as the true and correct bylaws of the **Association of Texas Professional Educators**, as amended and adopted on December 13, 1980, and effective December 31, 1980. This certification executed on the 8th day of February 1981.

**Eliseo Rodriguez~~Jason Forbis~~, Secretary of ATPE**

Ratified by ATE House of Delegates. .... March 15, 1980

Ratified by TPE Membership ..... March 29, 1980

Amended by ATPE Board of Directors ..... Feb. 22, 2025~~July 13, 2023~~

## RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT NO. 1 (2025):

At the November 2024 meeting of the ATPE Board of Directors (BOD), staff presented and the board discussed a recommendation to update the name and description of certain membership categories (referred to in the bylaws as Classes of Members). The amendment also makes a stylistic change and two technical corrections requested by the staff, which were inadvertently omitted from a comprehensive overhaul of the bylaws approved by the BOD in 2022.

- The amendment in Art. III, Sec. 4, changes “Student Teacher Members” to “Clinical Teacher Members” with an updated description. In recent years, the term “student teacher” has been replaced in state regulations with references to “clinical experience” that may include clinical teaching, residency, or internship. ATPE has offered free memberships to clinical teachers enrolled in an educator preparation program who are engaged in what was previously known as “student teaching,” undertaking unpaid classroom assignments under supervision or completing observations in a classroom setting. Clinical teachers participating in an *unpaid* residency are also eligible. Their free membership includes liability insurance but does not include employment rights protection as they are not employed by a school district while undertaking their clinical teaching.
- The amendment also codifies ATPE’s current practice of requiring educator preparation candidates participating in a *paid* residency program to join the association in the Professional member category in order to be eligible for employment rights protection along with professional liability insurance. Thus, the revision to Art. III, Sec. 4, clarifies that the Professional Member class includes clinical or student teachers who are participating in a *paid* residency while completing their educator preparation program. Similarly, the amendment clarifies that Professional Members also include interns, who are fully employed teachers completing an alternative certification program in accordance with state law and regulations.
- Under this amendment, references to “Retired Members” are changed to “Retiree Members.” This is a stylistic change recommended by the ATPE staff to ensure consistency in the naming convention used for membership categories or classes throughout the bylaws.
- The amendment to Art. III, Sec. 4, also revises the name of the “Public Member” class to better define its applicability to individuals who support public education and ATPE’s mission but are ineligible for membership under any other category or opting not to join in another category.
- In Art. III, Sec. 6, language that cross-references a referendum procedure in “Article XVI, Section 3” is removed at the staff’s request. This is a technical change that was inadvertently omitted when ATPE did a comprehensive bylaws overhaul in 2022, which included the deletion of Article XVI in its entirety. (It is believed that ATPE, in its nearly 45-year history, has never had need for or sought to undertake a vote by referendum.)
- The amendment to Art. VIII, Section 6, requested by staff, is also a technical change to correct an erroneous cross-reference to “Section 9” of Article V, which is another section that was removed from the bylaws during the 2022 amendment process. Art. V, Section 2, is the correct section that should be cross-referenced here pertaining to the term of office for a region director.

- Finally, the remaining changes (found in Article III, Section 6; Article IV, Section 3; and Article IX, Sections 2 and 9) are conforming amendments to reflect the name changes for the Clinical Teacher Member and Retiree Member class. The staff will also update the Certification and Signature of the Bylaws upon passage of these amendments in February.

*Submitted by:*

*Jayne Serna, ATPE Past State President  
Jan. 7, 2025*