



Association of Texas  
Professional Educators  
305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300  
Austin, TX 78752-3792

Phone: (512) 467-0071  
Fax: (512) 467-2203  
Email: [info@atpe.org](mailto:info@atpe.org)  
Online: [atpe.org](http://atpe.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

Jan. 13, 2025

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Kate Johanns  
512-922-6214  
[kjohanns@atpe.org](mailto:kjohanns@atpe.org)

# State's largest educator association unveils legislative priorities

*ATPE urges Legislature to increase school funding and index it to inflation, limit teacher certification exemptions, improve school working conditions, and prioritize traditional school district funding over experiments such as vouchers*

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)—the largest public educator organization in Texas—has unveiled its 2025 legislative priorities. The priorities are rooted in the [ATPE Legislative Program](#), the comprehensive member-written list of policy positions adopted annually by Texas educators serving in the ATPE House of Delegates.

“Over the next 140 days, we will advocate for positive, common-sense solutions to the challenges facing Texas educators and students every day,” says Dr. Shannon Holmes, ATPE executive director. “Every action our team takes at the Capitol is based on the real-life experiences of Texas educators, not the wishes of a thinktank or out-of-state donor. We are excited to continue fulfilling our mission by advocating for legislation that enables public educators to focus on what matters most—inspiring student success. With the right mindset, the Legislature can accomplish great things for Texas public schools.”

ATPE's 2025 legislative priorities are:

- **Increase Public Education Funding and Educator Compensation:** ATPE urges the Texas Legislature to meet its constitutional duty and fund public schools at levels that meet student needs and allow our public schools to comply with state and federal mandates. The Legislature should increase school funding and index it to inflation to ensure students are adequately supported both now and into the future. Funding must provide meaningful increases in all aspects of teacher compensation, including salaries, healthcare, and retirement benefits.
- **Strengthen the Teacher Pipeline:** Ensuring students have access to educators who are well prepared and well supported is key to student success. As such, ATPE recommends limiting exemptions from teacher certification laws. ATPE further recommends the Legislature provide grant funding for school districts to assist noncertified teachers obtain certification in a timely fashion.
- **Improve Working Conditions:** ATPE recommends the Legislature strengthen school disciplinary laws to empower educators to provide a safe learning environment. School districts should be positioned to establish local policies governing the responsible use of technology, such as cell phones, computers, and artificial intelligence. The Legislature should strengthen the mental health support available to both students and staff, enact measures that protect teachers' conference and planning time, and support initiatives that promote the positive impact of public school educators on the lives of their students and the future of Texas.
- **Protect the State's Educational Safety Net:** ATPE urges the Legislature to consider the substantial pitfalls of creating a taxpayer-funded entitlement for private schools, including the experiences of other states where vouchers have proven to be costly and, in some cases, budget-busting programs unpopular with voters. A Texas voucher entitlement could easily amount to over \$7 billion annually. Any voucher should be considered as standalone legislation and not be tied to public school funding or teacher compensation. The Legislature should prioritize funding for traditional school districts, the state's educational safety net, now and into the future, over private educational pathways.

For more information about ATPE Governmental Relations, please visit [atpe.org/txlege](http://atpe.org/txlege).

###

### About the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

Founded in 1980, ATPE is the leading educators' association in Texas with nearly 80,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and future, retired, and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for Texas' more than five million public school students. | [atpe.org](http://atpe.org)