



Input on HB 124

Regarding funding for the school safety allotment

March 25, 2025

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** offers the following input in support of **HB 124** by Chairman Bonnen:

We want to acknowledge and thank Chairman Bonnen for his recognition that the funding amounts provided last session to fund HB 3 were inadequate for the needs being addressed in the bill. We appreciate the prioritization of additional funding for school safety and security. It is critical that schools receive the necessary funding to close funding gaps for currently underfunded mandates to enhance security infrastructure, provide armed guards and mental health support, and implement proactive safety measures.

This bill as currently written seeks to increase the school safety allotment from \$10 to \$14 per student and \$15,000 to \$27,000 per campus. This increase is appreciated but does not match the commitment from the Senate in the companion to this bill, SB 260, which was \$28 per student and \$30,000 per campus. While we appreciate the House's efforts to increase the safety allotment, we prefer the Senate's language and ask that you adopt the language from SB 260.

In addition, we ask that you consider funding a separate allotment for mental health outside of the safety and security allotment. Although additional mental health support in schools could address both students on a path to harm themselves and those on a path to harm others, we have found mandates around physical safety to require more than the total amount of the current allotment meant to provide funding for both physical safety and mental health.

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