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Texas receives conditional approval of NCLB waiver extension **State's largest educator association weighs in on recent development**

AUSTIN, Texas – Yesterday the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced that they have approved the state's request for renewal of flexibility under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Earlier this year, the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) sent several educators to Washington to speak with congressmen about the issue.



"We are pleased the Department of Education has granted us this waiver," ATPE State President Cory Colby said. "This was one of our main concerns that we brought to the Capitol. We appreciate the state's commitment to public education and stand behind Commissioner Michael Williams in his support of local control when it comes to teacher evaluations. It is our hope that Congress will continue to work on the full reauthorization of ESEA."

The waiver is granted through the 2015-16 school year but places the state on "high-risk status." This makes flexibility beyond this school year dependent on Texas meeting two conditions: (1) all districts must use the state-recommended evaluation system(s) that is consistent with federal waiver guidelines and (2) all districts must use the results of those evaluations to inform personnel decisions.

Left to right: ATPE Gov. Relations Director Brock Gregg, Past State President Richard Wiggins, State President Cory Colby and Exec. Director Gary Godsey

For more information on the state's waiver request: <http://www.teachthevote.org/news/2015/09/29/texas-receives-conditional-approval-of-esea-waiver-extension/>

Full press release from TEA:

http://tea.texas.gov/About_TEA/News_and_Multimedia/Press_Releases/2015/Texas_secures_conditional_ESEA_waiver_for_2015-2016/

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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 more than 100,000 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 education.