



Association of Texas Professional Educators
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RELEASE**
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ATPE Praises Passage of HB 3 by Texas House

Texas's largest voice for public educators thanks lawmakers for boosting funding for Texas schools

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas House of Representatives on Wednesday, April 3, passed House Bill (HB) 3, a comprehensive school finance bill drafted by Rep. **Dan Huberty** (R-Kingwood), which provides \$6 billion in additional funding for public education and \$3 billion in property tax relief.

[The Association of Texas Professionals](http://atpe.org) (ATPE) would like to praise the efforts of Rep. Huberty, who chairs the House Public Education Committee, and the Texas House, in crafting a bill that will positively address the needs of Texas educators and provide resources for the benefit of the 5.4 million students served by Texas public schools.

“ATPE provided input on HB 3, and we are grateful that the concerns of Texas educators were given meaningful consideration,” said ATPE Executive Director **Shannon Holmes**.

During the floor debate, the House added language with bipartisan support to ensure that as school districts receive additional funding, their employees will be guaranteed pay raises.

According to ATPE lobbyists, HB 3 now requires districts to spend at least 25 percent of any increase in the basic allotment on salary increases for their full-time employees, except for administrators. One-quarter of the salary increases may be doled out at the district's discretion, while 75 percent of the increases must be funded in an across-the-board manner giving an equal amount to each eligible employee. A separate attempt to add back into the bill a controversial merit pay proposal, which ATPE opposed in the original version of HB 3, did not gain any traction during Wednesday's floor debate.

“ATPE greatly appreciates the House's bipartisan willingness to show additional support for our priority of increasing educator compensation along with improving the school finance system as a whole,” said Holmes. “HB 3 as adopted by the full House today represents a major step forward in replacing our outdated school funding system with one that will prioritize funding for students who need it the most, place greater emphasis on early learning, alleviate some of the burden on local taxpayers, and help Texas recruit and retain the best teachers.”

Holmes added: “As HB 3 makes its way over to the Senate, ATPE looks forward to working with lawmakers from both chambers to get school finance reform across the finish line this legislative session.”

For more information about ATPE's legislative priorities and efforts at the Capitol, visit www.teachthevote.org.

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The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)

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 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 voice of Texas public education. Learn more at atpe.org.