



ATPE Input on HB 547

Regarding participation by home-schooled students in UIL activities

March 9, 2021

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** appreciates this opportunity to express our opposition to House Bill (HB) 547 by Rep. James Frank.

HB 547 would require school districts to permit home-schooled students to participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities.

We appreciate the fact that HB 547 would require home-schooled students to be subject to certain requirements for eligibility; however, there is nothing in the bill to ensure that the home-schooled students would be subjected to the same requirements as students enrolled in the school district and placed on a level playing field with their public school peers.

Specifically, giving parents responsibility for their children's academic eligibility is problematic and unfair to other students competing for the same opportunities. Moreover, home-schooled students are not required to meet the same attendance requirements as public school students, which is another one of several distinctions that place them on unequal footing and render this bill unacceptable.

The ATPE Legislative Program is a statement of positions on education issues written and approved each year by the members serving in our House of Delegates. It includes the following statements relevant to HB 547:

- ATPE opposes the selective participation of home-school and private school students in public school activities and classes, except through the Virtual School Network.
- ATPE opposes any legislation that would abolish the UIL or require it to open its membership to private and home schools.
- ATPE opposes any legislation that would abolish "No Pass, No Play" standards.
- ATPE opposes legislation that would permit parents to perform eligibility checks.

Insofar as these statements represent the collective viewpoints of our more than 100,000 members, ATPE is obliged to oppose HB 547. Thus, we respectfully ask you to vote **NO** on HB 547. For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org.

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 educators.