



ATPE Input Opposing SB 491

Regarding participation by home-schooled students in UIL activities

May 6, 2021

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** appreciates this opportunity to provide input in opposition to SB 491 by Sen. Paxton.

SB 491 seeks to require school districts to allow home-schooled students to participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) athletic, academic and other competitions.

Under SB 491:

- Districts could recruit students from outside their district boundaries for UIL purposes.
- Home-schooled competitors would not be held to the same academic requirements as students enrolled in the public school district.
- Grade reporting would be up to the home-schooled student's parents, creating a conflict of interest and effectively nullifying "no pass, no play" rules.
- Schools would be prohibited from verifying academic eligibility.
- Home-schooled students would not be required to meet the same attendance requirements as public school students with whom they are competing.
- Home-schooled athletes cannot be held to the same practice limitations as athletes enrolled in a school district, which would create a wildly uneven competitive landscape.

In summary:

- SB 491 would sidestep UIL rules that have been established over decades to ensure fair competition between student athletes.
- The bill would incentivize academically struggling students to exit the public school to avoid the more rigorous no pass, no play rules that apply to public school students.

We respectfully ask you to vote **NO** on SB 491. 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 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 ally and the voice of Texas public school educators.