



# ATPE Testimony on HB 3904

Relating to assessment and accountability

**April 9, 2019**

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** appreciates this opportunity to offer input on House Bill (HB) 3904 by Chairman Dan Huberty.

ATPE supports the provisions in HB 3904 that limit domain performance ratings to be no more than 50% reliant on test scores, other clean-up provisions that improve the implementation of last session's HB 22, and the continuation of individual graduation committees. However, ATPE is concerned with the "reconstitution and strategic staffing" measure in the bill, which the commissioner may order for a campus that has not met standard.

While strategic staffing as a concept is not problematic, the bill specifically provides for procedures to retain teachers of tested subjects *only* if the teacher has demonstrated significant academic improvement for his/her students. There are many other responsibilities that teachers fulfill in order to support students, especially in struggling campuses. Therefore, ATPE opposes the use of high-stakes tests as the sole measure of student achievement.

Because the campuses affected by this bill will necessarily have faced challenges meeting testing standards, using the same tests to determine which educators should be retained will be problematic. These campuses are likely afflicted by other socioeconomic factors that are completely out of the control of teachers. Removing teachers solely due to their academic impact on students could have unintended negative consequences that affect the stability of the campus and daily lives of students who rely on familiar faces during the school day.

ATPE recommends removing the reconstitution and strategic staffing portion of the bill and retaining the other beneficial improvements to accountability, assessment, and the continuation of the individual graduation committees.

ATPE is pleased to offer further input on HB 3904. For additional information, contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or [government@atpe.org](mailto: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.*