



**Association of Texas  
Professional Educators**  
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July 2, 2025

The Honorable  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) is the leading educator association in Texas and has been an influential voice for Texas educators since 1980. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals, as well as future and retired educators, and works to create better opportunities for the more than 5 million public schoolchildren in Texas. We write to you today to express concerns about the Administration's withholding of federal education funding to schools in Texas and across the nation.

On June 30, the Trump Administration declined to release nearly \$7 billion in federal funding from the Department of Education. The more than \$660 million withheld from the State of Texas makes up 16.1% of total Department of Education K-12 funding for the State and is at odds with the priorities expressed by conservative state leaders, including the Governor, his appointed commissioner of education, and numerous state legislators who have all worked to dramatically expand summer learning programs and close the summer achievement gap over the past decade. Withholding these funds grievously impacts programs that augment student achievement, improve the effectiveness of educators, and bolster underserved student communities. After-school, summer, English language, and other enrichment programs are crucial to the success of Texas students, families, and educators.

Administration officials cited that they wanted to ensure taxpayer resources were spent in accordance with the President's priorities. Congress' greatest power is that it controls the purse, and these funds were appropriated and approved by Congress. The President's appropriations priorities are yet to be fully considered by the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress—the body elected by U.S. taxpayers to legislate and appropriate on their behalf. This Presidential action would be unprecedented and should require approval by Congress within 45 days.

**Your Ally. Your Voice.**

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These funds were set to be disbursed on July 1; school districts across the United States rely on stable funding. We are hopeful that lawmakers will uphold the congressionally approved disbursement of funds to the states. The programs in danger were meaningfully created and funded by lawmakers with the intention of supporting our country's education system—something that makes us the most incredible nation in the world.

ATPE respectfully requests that you contact the U.S. Department of Education and ask that these funds be immediately released. Should the President formally request rescission of these funds, we request that you oppose confirmation that would deprive Texas schools of more than \$660 million in funding. Please feel free to reach out to our federal government relations consultant, David Pore, at [dpore@hslawmail.com](mailto:dpore@hslawmail.com), with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Shannon J. Holmes, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Association of Texas Professional Educators