



**ATPE**<sup>®</sup>

Your Ally. Your Voice.

**Why Should Educators Advocate?  
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ATPE State President**

[atpe.org](https://atpe.org)

# How Did I Get Here?

- Joined ATPE as a student teacher in 1996.
- Became a First Time Professional Member in 1997 in Alief ISD.
- Began teaching in Humble ISD in 2004 and transferred my membership.
- Attended a Region 4 ATPE Spring Assembly Meeting and decided to become more involved with ATPE.
- Started attending my Humble local meetings and was elected to the Executive Board
- Eventually elected to the Region board (Secretary- Past President) and ran for State Office in 2019.
- Elected as State Treasurer in 2019 and worked my way up to President.

# What is ATPE?

Founded by educators for educators, ATPE is the leading educators' association in Texas and the largest independent educators' association in the United States. ATPE exists to serve the needs of Texas teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators and all public education employees and fights for our schools on the local, state and national levels.

The ATPE philosophy is simple. We believe it takes everyone working together to improve Texas public schools. We work with all stakeholders in public education, regardless of political party or platform. We work collaboratively with all sides of any debate to find the best solution. And we represent the priorities defined by our members—working educators who are passionate about Texas public schools.



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# My Journey As An Advocate for Education

I became interested in my School Board elections. Our local ATPE unit joined with PTA to hold a School Board Candidate forum.



**HUMBLE**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Established 1919

# My Journey As An Advocate for Education

The School Board President at the time, Dan Huberty, was a good friend of mine and my husband's. We attended fundraisers he held when he was running for and elected as State Representative for District 127.



# My Journey As An Advocate for Education

I attended our ATPE's Advocacy Training or ATPE at The Capitol as it is now called. I registered to speak to the Senate and House during public testimony on public education. My local unit also visited the elected officials that represented my school district to share concerns or joys over what had been previously passed or any bills that were being discussed.



# My Journey As An Advocate for Education

And then I was hooked- I accepted the obligation that I felt was given to me to represent my students and my profession.

I was building relationships built on trust and respect with the lawmakers that decided what MY students needed. Educators, not lawmakers, are the experts in our classrooms. We know what works, what will work and what won't work. This relationship that we build helps lawmakers to understand this. We are the voice of reason in our profession.

# My Journey As An Advocate for Education

My advocacy for education doesn't just stay in Texas. Last December, I was able to visit with ATPE's federal lobbyist in Washington, DC, and representatives from TRTA and Mass Retirees Association to lobby for a full repeal of the WEP (Windfall Elimination Program).





# How Can You Be Advocate for Education?

- Build relationships with your elected officials- local and state
- Know your facts about what you are advocating for and prepare in advance
- Communicate regularly and follow up after meetings are held with a thank you note
  - During the meeting, get to the point and state your position
    - Focus on one issue
    - Get to know the legislator's staff
    - Be respectful and speak from the heart
- Leave no more than a page summary of your position and leave your contact information
  - Be polite and persuasive- remember why you are there

# How Can I Join?

[www.atpe.org](http://www.atpe.org)

- [Advocacy Central](#) is a great tool to use to familiarize yourself on previous and upcoming bills for education.
- [Teachthevote.org](#) is another tool offered by ATPE that lets you see how the elected officials that represent you voted on bills that pertain to education.

# My Contact Information

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