

# Association of Texas Professional Educators

305 E. Huntland Dr., Suite 300, Austin, TX 78752  
(800) 777-ATPE • (512) 467-0071 • www.atpe.org

**Supporting Your Freedom to Teach<sup>SM</sup>**

**May 27, 2009**  
**Release No. 05-09-06**

**Media contact: Adam Rondeau**  
**arondeau@atpe.org**

## **Senate approves teacher pay raise**

The Senate approved a bill late yesterday that will give teachers in Texas public schools a much-needed pay increase.

House Bill 3646, by Rep. Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), provides school districts with \$1.9 billion in new funding to help relieve budget constraints and includes a provision that gives teachers and other professional employees a pay increase of at least \$800.

“School districts typically use about half of their budgets on teacher salaries,” said Josh Sanderson, a lobbyist with the Association of Texas Professional Educators. “This pay increase is a reasonable attempt to make sure that about half of the new funding reaches the classroom level. The rest of the new funding is left to help districts with other budgetary needs.”

Additional pay increases would be given based on any new revenue to which school districts are entitled under the bill.

“As more teachers get ready to retire, Texas must be prepared to offer competitive salaries in order to attract the next generation of potential educators to the profession,” said Sanderson.

The bill also includes a measure that eliminates the ineffective Texas Educator Excellence Grant, saving the state approximately \$100 million annually.

###

*The 112,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators is the largest educators' group in Texas and the largest nonunion educators' group nationwide. Its membership consists of classroom teachers, para-educators, administrators, college students and retired educators. ATPE is committed to advocating for better benefits for all educators, promoting a collaborative work environment and the right of educators to choose the association they feel represents their interests, and providing the best education possible for all Texas school children.*