

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Supporting Your Freedom to TeachSM

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Political battle over curriculum not in the interests of Texas students

The following is a statement by Doug Rogers, the executive director of the 112,000-member Association of Texas Professional Educators, regarding the on-going Social Studies curriculum debate that will be discussed this week by the State Board of Education:

“Much like what happened during revision of English Language Arts and Reading and Science curricula, the State Board of Education’s attempt to write a rigorous and challenging social studies curriculum already appears to be dissolving into a partisan battle at the expense of the millions of Texas schoolchildren.

“These constant and often highly publicized battles led by a contentious faction of the board have shaken the public’s trust in the board’s ability to act objectively and with the best interests of Texas children in mind.

“It would be wise of the state board to end this constant political rankling and use the tremendous resource they have on hand—the thousands of social studies teachers currently working with Texas students—instead of continuing to appoint ideologues with questionable qualifications as ‘experts’ to prop up their positions.”

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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.