

# Association of Texas Professional Educators

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## **ATPE president says federal accountability system has failed, not students**

AUSTIN – The following is a statement by Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) President Deann Lee regarding a Texas Education Agency announcement on less than half of Texas schools meeting yearly requirements set by the federal government under the No Child Left Behind Act.

“This announcement demonstrates a failure of the federal accountability system, not a failure of the students. The federal adequate yearly progress goals under the No Child Left Behind Act are unrealistic. This is a good example of the federal government overstepping their boundary in education policy. A dysfunctional Congress cannot act quickly to fix the system to meet the students where they are. Instead of creating a student success system, we’ve created a system that focuses on student failure. And this is why Texas needs to apply for a waiver from these requirements, so that we can reshape our system to meet the goals of our students and not the goals of a federal bureaucracy.”

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*The Association of Texas Professional Educators is the preeminent educators’ association 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.*