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## **Academy at West Birdville wins \$1,500 ATPE Foundation literacy grant**

*HALTOM CITY, Texas* – The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Foundation would like to recognize Academy at West Birdville for winning a \$1,500 literacy grant.

Academy librarian Kathleen Grupe applied for the foundation’s Beth Ann Rogers Literacy Initiative Grant with the hope of adding new books to a library collection in which the average age of the books is 13 years old.

“The majority of our students come from a poverty-level background, and in most cases, the only books they have access to are the library books,” Grupe wrote in her grant application.

Academy at West Birdville is a Title I school, and 93 percent of their students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Many of the schools’ books are outdated and need to be replaced.

“For many of the students, school is a safe place for them and [they] enjoy the interaction with their teachers, staff and peers,” Grupe wrote.

Through the Beth Ann Rogers Literacy Initiative Grant, the foundation provides \$1,500 grants to seven Texas public school libraries for the purchase and modernization of literacy materials and resources each year. The grant is named in memory of longtime Texas educator Beth Ann Rogers, who worked as a teacher, principal and school librarian throughout her 36-year career in public education.

For more information about the ATPE Foundation, visit [atpefoundation.org](http://atpefoundation.org).

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*The ATPE Foundation was established in 2000 by the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE), the state's leading educators' association and the largest independent association for public school educators in the nation. The foundation is dedicated to the advancement of public education and the success of Texas schoolchildren through literacy initiatives, technology programs, and educator recruitment and retention efforts.*