

Association of Texas Professional Educators

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Supporting Your Freedom to TeachSM

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Comptroller's revenue estimates show funding can be restored to public education

AUSTIN – The following is a statement from Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) State President Deann Lee regarding the state's Biennial Revenue Estimate report released today by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs. The report reveals that money is available to restore funding to public education. According to the report, the state will have a balance of \$8.8 billion at the end of the current budget cycle. During the 2011 legislative session, the legislature cut \$5.4 billion from public education. Because of an \$8.8 billion balance this biennium, the legislature could have prevented those cuts and still had money left over.

“The Comptroller's report clearly shows that now is the time to restore funding to public education,” said ATPE State President Deann Lee. “Now is the time to let districts know they will have additional funds available over and above enrollment growth to pay for reduced class sizes, full day pre-kindergarten classes, school safety, and remediation programs to help students who are struggling to meet the state's expanded college readiness standards. You cannot continue to raise standards and cut costs. The legislature cut \$500 per student during the last session. The result – fewer educators, more students and overcrowded classrooms that make it difficult for teachers to prepare students for academics, college and a career in a global world. We must seize this opportunity to give students the funding they need to be successful.”

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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.