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## **SAISD employee group withdraws grievance appeal to Commissioner**

*ATPE will continue working with trustees to seek change*

**AUSTIN, Texas** —Today the San Antonio ISD affiliate of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) withdrew an appeal to the Commissioner of Education to force the district to change one of its most contentious employee policies.

The decades-old policy, known as employee consultation, only allows one employee organization to confer with the administration regarding working conditions and other issues. In its grievance before the SAISD school board in May, ATPE's attorney argued that because the policy affords special privileges to the exclusive group it was coercive in nature.

"We still feel very strongly that the policy is grossly unfair and favors one group over others," said Tina Briones, San Antonio ATPE president. "However, continued appeals will only be divisive and costly for all parties involved including the school district. It is our hope that we can continue to work collaboratively with the school board to ensure that all policies are fair and that they work to benefit all employees."

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The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) has been a strong voice for Texas educators since 1980. It is the leading educators' association in Texas with more than 100,000 members statewide. With its strong collaborative philosophy, ATPE speaks for classroom teachers, administrators, future, retired and para-educators and works to create better opportunities for 5 million public schoolchildren. ATPE is the ally and the voice of Texas public school education.