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Texas School Funding System Declared Unconstitutional

AUSTIN, Texas — Today Travis County District Judge John Dietz issued a ruling declaring that the way Texas funds its public schools is unconstitutional. The head of state's largest educator group called the ruling a victory for the more than 5 million Texas public schoolchildren.

"It's unfortunate that school districts have to sue the State of Texas to force the Legislature to carry out its constitutional obligations," ATPE Executive Director Gary Godsey said. "Our children's future and the economic future of our state are at stake here. ATPE will not stop fighting until the Legislature addresses the fact that our schools do not have the funding necessary to prepare students for college and careers."

According to data from the Texas Education Agency, Texas has fewer teachers now than it had three years ago, despite adding more than 200,000 students to the public education system.

"It's the Legislature's responsibility to create a stable system for funding our schools," Godsey said. "The time for management by crisis — placing Band-Aids on problems to buy a few years between lawsuits — has long since passed."

It is widely expected that the state will appeal the decision to the Texas Supreme Court.

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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.