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ATPE tips for gifting your child's teacher this holiday

AUSTIN, Texas – Showing a teacher appreciation through a holiday gift is a traditional gesture, but what gifts are appropriate and which ones cross the line? The Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) shares these guidelines when giving the teacher a gift:

- **Stick to something less than \$50 and don't give cash.** Teachers are prohibited from accepting cash in any amount because money can be seen as possibly influencing their decision-making. Most districts prohibit gifts of more than \$50 value.
- **Be careful with food.** Some teachers may enjoy baked goods and homemade food – but these can't be shared with students and often can't be eaten because of dietary restrictions, food allergies or not knowing where the food came from.
- **Gift cards.** Teachers often spend hundreds out of their own pockets to buy school supplies for the classroom. A gift of classroom supplies can help. If you don't know what to get, a gift card to an educational supply store is a great option.
- **Have your student do the giving.** Teachers aren't in it for the money. Often the most meaningful gift is a note to the teacher saying how much they are appreciated.
- **The best gifts are free!** You can even have your child decorate a card or write an example of how the teacher has helped them this year.
- **Check with the principal.** Some districts don't allow teachers to accept gifts. You can check with the principal or district administration to see what their policies are on gift –giving.

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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.