



ATPE Opposition to SB 1214 by Patrick

Regarding participation by private and parochial school students in UIL activities

Senate Education Committee – March 29, 2011

The **Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE)** is the preeminent educator association in Texas and makes a positive difference in the lives of educators and schoolchildren. ATPE is a member-owned, member-governed professional association with more than 116,000 members, making it the leading educators' association in Texas and the largest independent association for public school educators in the nation. We appreciate this opportunity to express our opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 1214 by Sen. Dan Patrick.

SB 1214 would require the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to open its membership to private and parochial schools if they meet certain eligibility requirements. There is no requirement under this bill that the private schools participating in UIL activities meet accountability standards or administer assessment instruments to their students. Accordingly, private school students would be held to a different and more lenient standard than public school students for purposes of UIL participation.¹

ATPE's Legislative Program is a statement of positions on education issues written and approved each year by the members serving in our House of Delegates. The current program includes the following excerpts that are relevant to SB 1214:

- ATPE opposes the participation of home-school and private school students in public school classes and/or extracurricular activities unless such students can meet grade-level accountability standards.
- ATPE opposes any legislation that will abolish the UIL or require it to open its membership to all private and home schools.
- ATPE opposes any legislation that will eliminate the athletic period from the school day or abolish "No Pass, No Play" standards.

Insofar as these statements represent the collective viewpoints of our 116,000 members, ATPE is directed to oppose SB 1214. Thus, we respectfully ask you to vote **NO** on SB 1214.

For any additional information, please contact ATPE Governmental Relations at (800) 777-2873 or government@atpe.org.

¹ It is also worth noting that under similar legislation filed by Sen. Patrick in 2007 and 2009, private schools would have been ineligible to participate in UIL activities if they had been barred or suspended from participating in a similar association at any time. SB 1214 limits the review of the private school's record in that regard to only the five preceding years, which is a lower eligibility standard.