



I choose **ATPE.**

# Meet Samantha Castillo

She's only one of the 112,000-plus Texas educators who choose ATPE, but Samantha Castillo embodies ATPE's all-inclusive philosophy.

Samantha began her career as a teacher's aide. After moving to Carrollton, she began substitute teaching, and her district urged her to complete her certification and become a teacher. About this time, Samantha was introduced to ATPE by someone close to home: Mom.

"My mom—who had taken my old position as a teacher's assistant—called me and said, 'You need to join ATPE,'" Samantha remembers.


Samantha took her mother's advice and hasn't looked back. Her new local unit became a vital support group. "It was wonderful to have ATPE members around me who knew what I was experiencing," she says.

When Samantha had a troublesome situation with a student's parents, she turned to ATPE. "ATPE was there, helping me the whole time," Samantha says. "The attorney would call me after five, on my cell phone, when it was convenient for me."

Samantha's next goal is to be an administrator. She's pursuing a master's degree in sports management at Texas Woman's University so that she may work in K-12 athletic administration.

After seeing firsthand that ATPE provides services that enable *all* educators to focus on what matters most—their students—Samantha proudly tells colleagues she's an ATPE member.

"I can say to anyone: You need to join ATPE."



“I’ve been a para-educator; I am a teacher; I’m on my way to becoming an administrator,” Samantha says. “I can say to anyone: You need to join ATPE.”

#### **ABOUT SAMANTHA**

- Middle school physical education department chair in Lewisville ISD
- ATPE member for 10 years



CHOOSE ATPE FOR

# Philosophy

- ATPE is the only Texas educators' association with an all-inclusive membership philosophy. The 112,000-plus educators who choose ATPE (making it Texas' largest educators' association) include all stakeholders in the public education community, from classroom teachers to cafeteria workers to superintendents to education majors.
- ATPE is member-owned and member-governed. The volunteers who operate ATPE's more than 550 local units in districts across Texas are educators like you. ATPE's state officers are also volunteers and working educators.
- ATPE exists to support you as a professional, not to tell you how to think or what to do. ATPE does not endorse candidates and advocates for the education priorities chosen by a representative body of members.
- ATPE was founded on right-to-work values, which means we support your right to choose membership in the professional association that best complements your beliefs.





## MEET RACHEL HOMEYER

- Fifth-grade teacher in Klein ISD
- ATPE member for four years



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# Protection

At no additional cost beyond the annual membership dues:

- Every eligible ATPE member is covered by up to \$8 million in professional liability insurance. This is the highest level of coverage offered by any Texas educators' association. It includes up to \$2 million per occurrence for civil rights claims brought by students.\*
- Eligible ATPE members also have access to up to \$10,000 per claim for legal costs related to employment rights protection. This benefit is guaranteed, win or lose, by an insurance contract.\*

Plus:

- ATPE employs 11 staff attorneys who may assist eligible members with employment concerns at no additional cost. For prompt and confidential service, eligible members need only call (800) 777-ATPE or submit concerns securely online.

**“I’m out there doing everything I can for the kids. It’s nice to know ATPE is out there doing everything it can for me.”**

—Rachel Homeyer, Klein ISD fifth-grade teacher

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# Advocacy

- ATPE members are represented at the Texas State Capitol and state agencies by an experienced team of professional lobbyists that includes former legislative staffers and a former state senator. ATPE also advocates on your behalf at the federal level on issues such as Social Security and the No Child Left Behind Act.
- ATPE's Legislative Alert Network, publications and online resources help members stay up-to-date on fast-moving issues and make it easy for them to advocate for public education.
- ATPE-PAC is a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to supporting public education and those who stand behind it.

“ATPE opens doors at the Legislature. Our lobbyists are well-respected and advocate for us using a platform that we, the members of ATPE, create. It’s a privilege to gather with my colleagues from across Texas to develop our own legislative priorities.”

—Tonja Gray, Abilene ISD second-grade teacher



## MEET TONJA GRAY

- Second-grade gifted-and-talented teacher in Abilene ISD
- ATPE member for 21 years



**MEET ROGER GUTIERREZ**

- Fourth-grade teacher in Weslaco ISD
- ATPE member for 13 years



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# Resources

- ATPE's resources include professional development courses, classroom tips and information about your rights as an educator, all of which are available 24/7 at [atpe.org](http://atpe.org).
- *ATPE News*, a quarterly magazine, and *Essentials*, an e-newsletter, keep members informed about the latest education news.
- ATPE member services and discounts will help you make the most of your hard-earned dollars—something we're all looking to do in this challenging economy. By using ATPE's services and discounts, you can recoup the cost of your membership dues and then some! Save on auto insurance,\* prescriptions, travel, professional real estate services, online shopping and more.
- Plus, enjoy access to voluntary guaranteed-issue insurance products,\* savings on dental and vision services,\* high-yield online banking provided by Waterfield Financial Services, and low-cost prepaid legal services offered through the Texas Legal Protection Plan.\*\*

**“ATPE’s online professional development is free and convenient. It’s something you can do on your own time, when you have the time, and it won’t interfere with your teaching.”**

—Roger Gutierrez, Weslaco ISD fourth-grade teacher

\*Optional benefit in which ATPE members may enroll for an additional fee

\*\*The Texas Legal Protection Plan provides coverage for personal legal issues as opposed to employment-related issues and is an optional benefit in which ATPE members may enroll for an additional fee.

# ATPE: Supporting Your Freedom to Teach<sup>SM</sup>

## Choose ATPE for value

Because ATPE is an independent organization, your dues dollars will stay in Texas. Join by check to make a one-time payment, or join by payroll deduction to spread the cost of membership out. You may also join by credit card at [atpe.org](http://atpe.org). **First-time professional members pay just \$90 for their first year of membership!**

### Membership categories that are eligible for professional liability insurance\*

	Annual dues
First-time professional member**	\$90
Renewing professional member	\$145
First-time or renewing associate member	\$70
Teacher trainee	FREE

### Membership categories that are not eligible for professional liability insurance

	Annual dues
Retired member	\$10
Public member	\$35
College student	FREE

## ¡Bienvenidos! Estamos para ayudarle.

Para más información en español, llame al (800) 777-ATPE o visite nuestra Web site [atpe.org](http://atpe.org).



**SUPPORTING YOUR FREEDOM TO TEACH<sup>SM</sup>**

ATPE reserves the right to determine eligibility for membership category. The membership year runs from Aug. 1–July 31.

\*\*Available only to educators who have NEVER been professional members of ATPE.