



ATE Statement on School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas

The Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), a professional organization engaged in the preparation of classroom teachers for the nation's schools, joins the expanding list of individuals and groups who condemn the violence and grieve the senseless loss of lives that occurred in Uvalde, TX on Tuesday of this week. Sadly, we recognize that Robb Elementary School and the Uvalde community will be one more name added to the list of mass shootings occurring at schools. Violence and fear should never be a part of our schools.

ATE joins with parents and loved ones who grieve the individual losses. While we search for words with those who must attempt to "explain" to their children how these things can happen at school, we have another perspective to consider—how do we recruit individuals to a profession that is asked to stand between children and whatever harmful intent walks through the door? How do we support and sustain the colleagues of fallen teachers who will return to their classrooms today not knowing if their classroom is next? How do we ensure the necessary mental health support is available in schools for those coping with grief?

While we acknowledge there are no easy answers to these challenges, we do know that it will take a united effort to prevent future additions to the list of mass school shootings in the United States. Our grief, our anger, and our statements are not enough. We call upon our nation, local communities, and our individual members to take action. ATE is committed to supporting those who work to make schools safe places, where children, their parents, and the adults who serve them can work and learn without fear.