

**TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY LETTER**

ID/No:	AEL 06-15
Date:	June 12, 2015
Keyword:	AEL
Effective:	Immediately

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Adult Education and Literacy Grant Recipients
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers

Courtney Akaw for

From: Reagan Miller, Director, Workforce Development Division

Subject: Expansion of Eligible Population to Be Served from Institutions of Higher Education

PURPOSE:

To provide Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) grant recipients with guidance regarding an expansion of eligible populations to be served by institutions of higher education (IHEs) for AEL grants funded under RFP 320-14-10.

BACKGROUND:

On November 25, 2014, the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) three-member Commission adopted the following goal for the AEL system as part of its strategic planning process:

To support increases in employment, higher education transition, skill gains, and secondary education completion through demonstrated approaches that integrate system services and leverage community partnerships.

The Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) is the test used by Texas IHEs to determine readiness for college-level course work for certain students in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. TSIA skill levels are aligned with the National Reporting System (NRS), the reporting framework used by AEL grant recipients to measure educational gain.

Section 2.7 of RFP 320-14-10 describes the eligible IHE population to be served by AEL grantees and service providers:

2.7.3—Students applying for IHE services: Students applying for IHE entrance may be eligible for AEL services if the following can be documented:

- 2.7.3.1—Students are not eligible for existing remedial or developmental education services and/or courses at the institution;
- 2.7.3.2—The AEL Grant Recipient can document that it is not supplanting state or local public funds expended for this student population;
- 2.7.3.3—The AEL Grant Recipient follows the AEL Assessment Policy; and
 - 2.7.3.3.1—Students do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; and/or
 - 2.7.3.3.2—Students score into NRS levels 1–2 on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) for college placement in all three skill areas and this level is validated against tests approved under the AEL Assessment Policy; and
 - 2.7.3.3.3—The AEL Grant Recipient can document capacity for serving students entering IHEs below college ready by not displacing students at greater academic or English literacy need.

PROCEDURES:

NLF: To support increased partnerships and integration with IHEs, TWC has made modifications to student eligibility for grant recipients funded under RFP 320-14-10. Modifications clarify and increase the eligible population to be served by AEL grant recipients by expanding the range of skill levels for students who are eligible for AEL services and applying for, enrolling in, or attending an IHE and taking the TSIA for college placement.

Grant recipients and fiscal agents must be aware of the following changes to Section 2.7 of RFP 320-14-10.

- 2.7.3—Students applying for, enrolling in, or attending an IHE who have taken the TSIA may be eligible for AEL services if the following can be documented:
 - 2.7.3.1—The AEL Grant Recipient can document that it is not supplanting state or local public funds to provide AEL services;
 - 2.7.3.2—The AEL Grant Recipient can document capacity for serving students entering IHEs below college ready.
 - 2.7.3.3—Students:

- 2.7.3.3.1—Meet the criteria for Career Pathways outlined under 3.1.14.1.1 and 3.1.14.1.2; or
- 2.7.3.3.2—Do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and have not achieved an equivalent level of education; or
- 2.7.3.3.3—Score into NRS levels 1–4 on TSIA for college placement in at least two skill areas and are found eligible for AEL services based on the AEL Assessment Policy.

INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries regarding this AEL Letter to aelpolicy.clarifications@twc.state.tx.us.

RESCISSIONS:

None

REFERENCE:

RFP 320-14-10

FLEXIBILITY RATINGS:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards and AEL entities must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this AEL Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards and AEL entities have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this AEL Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”