

1 **Digital Literacy Content Standards**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 Senate Bill 0001, Article VII, Rider 46, of the 87th Texas Legislature (Regular Session) requires
5 that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) explicitly permit the use of digital skill building
6 in all workforce programs. Additionally, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) state leadership
7 funds provided under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), as outlined in
8 §223 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), must be used to develop or
9 enhance the AEL program as prescribed by AEFLA. WIOA §223 state leadership activities are
10 designated as either required or permissible activities.

11 **Issue: Content Standards Enhancement with Digital Literacy Competencies¹—\$200,000**

12 TWC’s three-member Commission (Commission) may identify projects to enhance the AEL
13 system using state leadership funds. TWC staff has identified an opportunity to respond to Rider
14 46 with an enhancement to the AEL Content Standards (Standards 4.0) that aligns digital literacy
15 competencies with each of the benchmarks in the AEL Content Standards. The Commission has
16 previously funded enhancements to the AEL Content Standards, originally published in 2016, as
17 follows:

- 18 • The Standards 2.0, published in 2018, aligned AEL competencies with the knowledge,
19 skills, and abilities required for success in in-demand entry- and intermediate-level jobs
20 in four industry clusters.
21 • The Standards 3.0, published in 2021, added family literacy and civics education
22 benchmarks.

23 Furthermore, staff has identified an opportunity to amend the existing statewide professional
24 development contract for distance education, the Distance Education Professional Development
25 Center (DEPDC). The amendment will add \$200,000 for the development of Digital Literacy
26 Content Standards and professional development training offered through the DEPDC to
27 educators and workforce development specialists.

28 **Decision Point**

29 Staff seeks direction on amending the DEPDC contract (2921AEL004) to add \$200,000 with
30 Fiscal Year 2023 (FY’23) Budget of AEL state leadership funds to both enhance the AEL
31 Content Standards with digital literacy competencies and provide training to instructors on use of
32 these standards.

¹ This is a permissible AEL state leadership activity under WIOA §223(a)(2)(I) that is dedicated to “. . . identifying curriculum frameworks and aligning rigorous content standards that specify what adult learners should know and be able to do in the areas of reading and language arts, mathematics, and English language acquisition.”

Track Code	State Leadership Initiative	Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
77009	Distance Education Professional Development Center	\$200,000

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