Agenda

- TWC Welcome/Opening Remarks/Roll Call
- AEL Updates
  - Funding Update
  - Legislation Update
  - Review Strategic Plan Organization
- Committee Business and Discussions
  - Discussion: Second System Strategy Area Action Items
  - Discussion: Indicators for Second System Strategy Area Objectives

Welcome and Remarks

- Commission Office Representing Labor
  - Commissioner Alberto Treviño III

Presiding Officer

Jauneen Maldonado

AEL Director, Workforce Solutions Tarrant County

Roll Call –Presiding Officer

Member	Location	Representing	Affiliation	Term Expires
Jauneen Maldonado	Fort Worth	Workforce Board	Director, Adult Education, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	December 2025
Ernest Lewis	Houston	Nonprofit	Senior Director, Economic Initiatives, Ripley Baker	January 2026
Karla Flanagan	Waco	Technical College	Associate Vice Chancellor of Instructional Alignment and Innovation, TSTC	January 2026
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, Toyotetsu	September 2026
Kevin Rose	Mount Pleasant	Higher Ed	Sr. Vice President for Student Success, Northeast Texas Community College	September 2026
Chris Tovar	Odessa	Higher Ed	CPR AHA Faculty Instructor, Continuing Education, Odessa College	September 2026
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Community College/Higher Ed	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College—Port Arthur	May 2027
Kristina Hartman	Huntsville	Corrections Education	Superintendent, Windham School District	May 2027

Adult Education Updates

Mahalia Baldini

Chief Deputy Division Director, Workforce Development

Director, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL)

PY 25-26 State Allocations

- PY 25-26 Federal Grant Memo received and contained allocations for the state's Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) program, WIOA Sec.243.

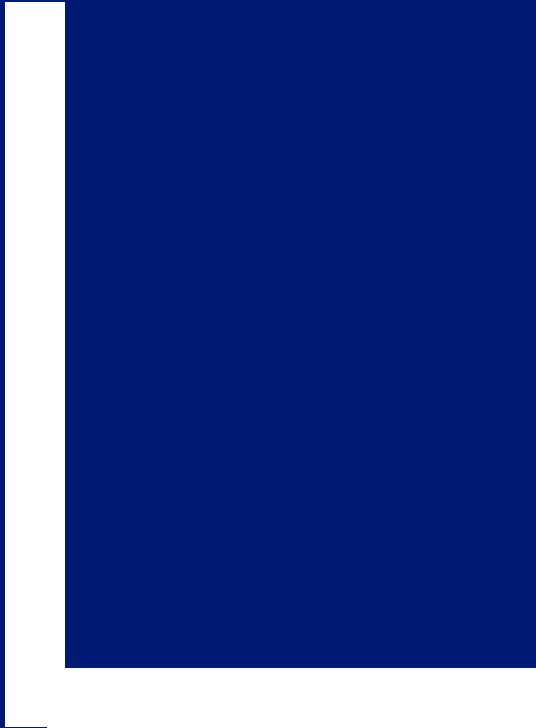- Funds through June 2026

Federal Legislation

- House Labor-HHS Subcommittee: FY 26 Appropriations bill
  - Mark-up for Administration's Budget Proposal
- Notable proposed cuts or eliminations:
  - Eliminates WIOA Youth funding;
  - Combines WIOA Adult and Disclosed Worker funding with reduction in overall funding;
  - Eliminates WIOA Title II Adult Education funding;
  - Eliminates the Senior Community Service Program;
  - Eliminates Reentry Employment programs;
  - Reduces Job Corps by 50%; and
  - Reduces the maximum Pell Grant by $1,060.

Federal Legislation

- House Labor-HHS Subcommittee: FY 26 Appropriations bill
  - Mark-up for Administration's Budget Proposal
- Notable proposed changes:
  - Provides funding to support the goal of creating over one million new apprenticeships;
  - Provides funding to grow the American cybersecurity workforce;
  - Increases funding for special education, charter schools, and career and technical education; and
  - Increases funding to support students with disabilities at specialized schools.

Notice of Interpretation

- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA)
  - limits eligibility for "federal public benefits" to only U.S. citizens, U.S. noncitizen nationals, and certain categories of "qualified aliens."

- Updated notice of interpretation, issued July 11, 2025, from the Department of Education
  - Two critical points of change for verification of eligibility:
    - Develop a process to check legal immigration status
    - Ensure students are allowed to benefit from federally funded programs

Questions?

Organization of New AEL Strategic Plan

Fiscal Years 2027-2031

Each System Area Has Same Objectives	

| **However, the Action Items will be specific to the System Strategy.** | |

Review

System Area: Partners	**System Strategy:** Build and expand system partners' capacity, responsiveness, and support for a unified system that improves outcomes for adult learners.
System Objective 1: Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes	**Action Items**
System Objective 2: Address Demand By Expanding Access	**Action Items**
System Objective 3: Increase Alignment and Coordination	**Action Items**

Review/Discuss Action Items in Partners System Area Only

System Area: *Partner*
System Objective 1

Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes

System Area: Partners

System Objective 1

Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes

Action Item	Description
1	Promote cross-referrals of low-level developmental education students into AEL programs to support college readiness at no-cost or low-cost, advancing THECB strategic plan goals of manageable student debt.
2	Establish a platform for Tri-Agency partners to align and share policies on credit portability and articulation, supporting efficient and flexible career pathways.
3	Develop and launch a public-facing dashboard to track and report career pathway program performance and outcomes.
4	Analyze the conclusions from the Evaluation Study, develop partnerships with community-based organizations to expand access to comprehensive support services for AEL participants.
5	Strengthen the integration of AEL within Texas postsecondary education and training systems by collaborating with THECB, postsecondary institutions, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, and other stakeholders.

System Area: Partners

System Objective 1: Action Item 1

Improve Program Effectiveness Through Quality Outcomes

Action Item:

Promote cross-referrals of low-level developmental education students into AEL programs to support college readiness at no-cost or low-cost, advancing THECB strategic plan goals of manageable student debt.

Action Item 2

Establish a platform for Tri-Agency partners to align and share policies on credit portability and articulation, supporting efficient and flexible career pathways.

Action Item 3

Develop and launch a public-facing dashboard to track and report career pathway program performance and outcomes.

Action Item 4

Analyze the conclusions from the Evaluation Study, develop partnerships with community-based organizations to expand access to comprehensive support services for AEL participants.

Action Item 5

Strengthen the integration of AEL within Texas postsecondary education and training systems by collaborating with THECB, postsecondary institutions, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, and other stakeholders.

System Objective 2

Address Demand by Expanding Access

System Area: Partners	Action Item	Description
Objective 2: Overview Address Demand by Expanding Access	1	Build strategic partnerships with community, faith-based, and non-TWC-funded organizations to expand AEL program capacity and offerings, particularly for low-literacy ELLs and internationally trained professionals, by leveraging shared funding and volunteer resources.
	2	Develop partnerships with Workforce Solutions Offices, nonprofits, and community organizations to conduct targeted outreach, expanding AEL program reach to individuals lacking digital access, particularly in rural areas.
	3	Facilitate the development of targeted outreach campaigns for potential AEL customers in Workforce Solutions Offices, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, libraries, and other community institutions.
	4	Create statewide AEL branding and outreach resources for local AEL programs to use for both recruitment in their respective communities and coordination with stakeholders.
	5	Partner with community and postsecondary institutions to expand AEL access through alternative entry pathways like Ability-to-Benefit program models.

System Area: Partners

System Objective 2: Action Item 1

Address Demand By Expanding Access

Action Item:

Build strategic partnerships with community, faith-based, and non-TWC-funded organizations to expand AEL program capacity and offerings, particularly for low-literacy ELLs and internationally trained professionals, by leveraging shared funding and volunteer resources.

Action Item 2

Develop partnerships with Workforce Solutions Offices, nonprofits, and community organizations to conduct targeted outreach, expanding AEL program reach to individuals lacking digital access, particularly in rural areas.

Action Item 3

Develop partnerships with Workforce Solutions Offices, nonprofits, and community organizations to conduct targeted outreach, expanding AEL program reach to individuals lacking digital access, particularly in rural areas.

Action Item 4

Create statewide AEL branding and outreach resources for local AEL programs to use for both recruitment in their respective communities and coordination with stakeholders.

Action Item 5

Partner with community and postsecondary institutions to expand AEL access through alternative entry pathways like Ability-to-Benefit program models.

System Objective 3

Increase Alignment and Coordination

System Area: Partners

Objective 3: Overview

Increase Alignment and Coordination

Action Item	Description
1	Develop and implement a joint TWC policy across WIOA Titles I, II, and IV promoting AEL co-enrollment and referrals for customers needing AEL support to achieve education or career goals.
2	Coordinate with partners on the use of alternative testing options to promote streamlined access to AEL programs without duplication of student testing.
3	Improve AEL and Board-administered program performance accountability by enhancing data collection, management, and reporting, including addressing data gaps, improving data systems and dashboards, and ensuring accurate and timely reporting of non-credit and short-term credentials.
4	Facilitate opportunities for Board, VR, AEL and community stakeholders to share best practices for implementing strategic frameworks that support career pathways.
5	Promote integrated education and training career pathway models across AEL, credit, and continuing education CTE programs, including exploring and incorporating micro-credentials in collaboration with THECB.
6	Establish partnerships to develop outreach and follow-up services for AEL populations requiring additional supports, including justice-involved individuals, adult learners with disabilities, opportunity youth, and internationally trained professionals.
7	Partner with employers, economic development organizations, and employer organizations to launch a statewide campaign showcasing AEL as an economic and community development tool.
8	Establish partnerships for cross-training among AEL programs, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Workforce Solutions Offices to develop integrated intake models and increase referrals and service coordination.

Action Item 1

Develop and implement a joint TWC policy across WIOA Titles I, II, and IV promoting AEL co-enrollment and referrals for customers needing AEL support to achieve education or career goals.

Action Item 2

Coordinate with partners on the use of alternative testing options to promote streamlined access to AEL programs without duplication of student testing.

Action Item 3

Improve AEL and Board-administered program performance accountability by enhancing data collection, management, and reporting, including addressing data gaps, improving data systems and dashboards, and ensuring accurate and timely reporting of non-credit and short-term credentials

Action Item 4

Facilitate opportunities for Board, VR, AEL and community stakeholders to share best practices for implementing strategic frameworks that support career pathways.

Action Item 5

Promote integrated education and training career pathway models across AEL, credit, and continuing education CTE programs, including exploring and incorporating micro-credentials in collaboration with THECB.

Action Item 6

Establish partnerships to develop outreach and follow-up services for AEL populations requiring additional supports, including justice-involved individuals, adult learners with disabilities, opportunity youth, and internationally trained professionals.

Action Item 7

Partner with employers, economic development organizations, and employer organizations to launch a statewide campaign showcasing AEL as an economic and community development tool.

Action Item 8

Establish partnerships for cross-training among AEL programs, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Workforce Solutions Offices to develop integrated intake models and increase referrals and service coordination.

Indicators

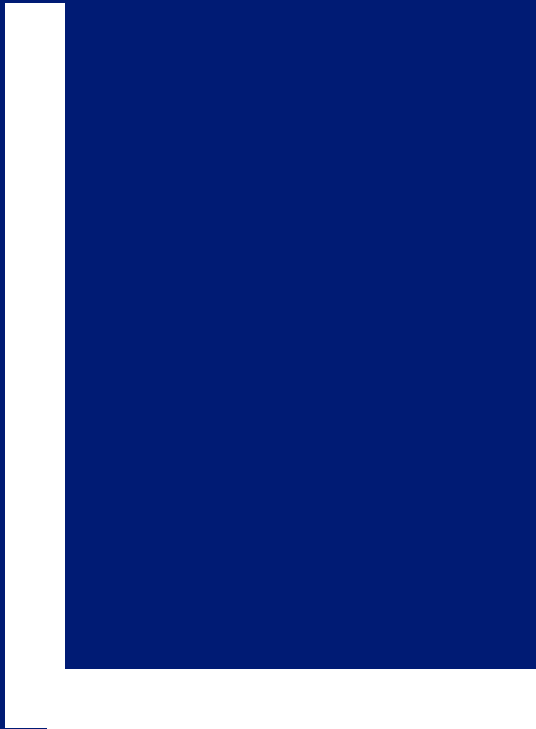**Possibilities for Partners' System Area**

Sample Indicators:

- **Increase AEL participant utilization of support services through community partners.**

- **Increase the number of AEL program referrals received from Workforce Solutions Offices, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and libraries through targeted outreach.**

- **Increase the percentage of AEL students co-enrolled in WIOA Title I, II, or IV programs by tracking through shared data systems and reporting between partnering agencies.**

Next System Area

- We will review Action Items for the EMPLOYERS System Area at our next meeting.

Request Before Next Meeting

- TWC will send out an email before the next meeting with the Action Items for the next System Area: EMPLOYERS.

- For our next meeting on December 10th
  - Think about recommendations for the Employers System Area
  - You can submit your recommendations ahead of time to Nicole.Stevens@twc.Texas.gov or bring them with you to the meeting.