



# Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee

March 25, 2026 @ 1:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting

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# Agenda

- TWC Welcome/Opening Remarks/Roll Call
- AEL Updates
  - AEL Funding
  - AEL RFAs—Limited Counties
- Committee Business and Discussions
  - New AEL Advisory Committee Members
  - Need Presiding Officer
  - Discussion: Draft AEL Strategic Plan FY 2026-2031
  - Discussion: Next Steps

# Welcome and Remarks

- Mahalia Baldini, Chief Deputy Division Director
- Kathy Zarate, State AEL Director

# Roll Call

Member	Location	Representing	Affiliation	Term Expires
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, <del>Toyotetsu</del>	<b>September 2026</b> (Second Term)
Kevin Rose	Mount Pleasant	Higher Ed	Sr. Vice President for Student Success, Northeast Texas Community College	<b>September 2026</b> (First Term)
Chris Tovar	Odessa	Higher Ed	CPR AHA Faculty Instructor, Continuing Education, Odessa College	<b>September 2026</b> (First Term)
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Community College/Higher Ed	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College—Port Arthur	<b>May 2027</b> (Second Term)
Kristina Hartman	Huntsville	Corrections Education	Superintendent, Windham School District	<b>May 2027</b> (Second Term)

# Adult Education Updates

Kathy Zarate

Director, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL)



# New Committee Members

Member	Location	Representing	Affiliation	Term Expires
Dr. Krista van Beurden	Corsicana	AEL/Higher Ed	Director of Adult Education, Navarro College	<b>March 2028</b> (First Term)
Jeanne Burton	Kyle	Employer	Vice President of People, ATX Specialty Foods	<b>March 2028</b> (First Term)
Lisa McDaniel	Wichita Falls	Workforce Board	Executive Director, Workforce Solutions North Texas	<b>March 2028</b> (First Term)

# Federal Funding Update

- HR 7148 Consolidated Appropriates Act 2026 passed
  - Included WIOA funding through June 30, 2027
- Adult Education and Literacy Program (WIOA Title II) still would need to be reauthorized or new legislation introduced.
  - Current authorization has expired, and we depend on annual appropriations for federal program to continue

# Other Items

- 2025 AEL Advisory Committee Annual Report was presented to the Commission on January 20, 2026
- RFA for AEL Funding
  - RFAs for two LWDAs will be getting published
    - Deep East
    - Panhandle

# REVIEW: New TWC AEL System Areas



- Learners
- Partners
- Employers

# Organization: AEL's Strategic Plan

## Each System Area Includes:

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- System Strategy
  - BIG 3 System Objectives
    - Action Items
- Indicators
  - Six indicators for Strategic Plan as a whole

# Indicators

Percentage increase in the number of AEL students who earn recognized postsecondary credentials

Percentage increase in the number of AEL students who enroll in postsecondary education or training programs

Increase the number of Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs that include or bridge to pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship programs

Percentage increase in the number of AEL students placed in jobs in high demand fields

Increase the number of HSE attainments

Increase number of new employer partnerships established to provide AEL training programs, career pathways, or work-based learning opportunities.

# Review AEL Strategic Plan FY2026-2031



Questions?



# Next Steps

- Strategic Plan will go through TWC design team
  - Will be incorporating actual provider and student pictures
- Final product will be reviewed at the next Advisory Committee meeting
  - June 24, 2026

# Request Before Next Meeting

- TWC will send out an email before the next meeting with any information that needs to be previewed.
- For our next meeting on June 24, 2026
  - You can submit your recommendations or questions to [Nicole.Stevens@twc.Texas.gov](mailto:Nicole.Stevens@twc.Texas.gov)

# 2026 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, March 25, 2026
  - Wednesday, June 24, 2026
  - Wednesday, September 23, 2026
  - Wednesday, December 9, 2026
- 
- Meeting time will remain at 1:30PM



# Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

At 1:30pm

