

**Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee
Discussion Paper**

Background

Texas Labor Code §315.005 and Texas Administrative Code Chapter 805 §805.43 require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish an Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) advisory committee. Texas Labor Code requires the committee to meet at least quarterly, report annually to TWC’s three-member Commission (Commission) and advise the Commission on various policies related to adult education in the state. The advisory committee must:

- not be composed of more than nine members.
- include at least one representative of the business community; and
- include at least one representative of a Local Workforce Development Board (Board).

Members must serve for a two-year term and may be reappointed to a second term by the Commission.

Issue

TWC AEL staff are recommending two new members and one reappointment for the AEL Advisory Committee.

Current committee members are listed in Table 1 below. Table 2 lists staff recommendations to:

- reappoint Leslie Cantu for an additional two-year term and
- add two new members whose terms will expire in September 2026.

Table 1: Current Committee Members and Terms

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Expiration
Jauneen Maldonado, Presiding Officer	Fort Worth	Board (Required)	Director of Adult Education, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	December 2025
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, Toyotetsu	October 2024
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Higher Ed	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College— Port Arthur	May 2025

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Expiration
Cindy Fisher	Austin	State Broadband Office	Broadband Senior Program Coordinator, Texas Broadband Office	May 2025
Kristina Hartman	Huntsville	Corrections Education	Superintendent, Windham School District	May 2025
Ernest Lewis	Houston	Non-Profit	Senior Director, Economic Initiatives, Baker Ripley	January 2026
Karla Flanagan	Waco	Technical College	Associate Vice Chancellor of Instructional Alignment and Innovation, Texas State Technical College (TSTC)	January 2026

1 Table 2: Committee Member Nominees

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Two-Year Term Expiration
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, Toyotetsu	September 2026 (Reappointment)

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Two-Year Term Expiration
Kevin Rose	Mount Pleasant	Higher Ed	Sr. Vice President for Student Success, Northeast Texas Community College	September 2026
Chris Tovar	Odessa	Higher Ed	Director, Continuing Education, University of Texas-Permian Basin	September 2026

1 **Decision Point**

- 2 Staff recommends appointing individuals outlined in Table 2 to serve on the AEL Advisory
- 3 Committee for two-year terms expiring in September 2026.