

## Adult Education and Literacy Advisory Committee Discussion Paper

### Background

Texas Labor Code §315.005 and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chapter 805 Adult Education and Literacy rule §805.43 require 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

Presiding Officer Steve Banta is retiring from his current role at Literacy Texas and has concluded his committee term. In addition, committee member Jauneen Maldonado’s term expired in December 2023.

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

- reappoint Jauneen Maldonado for an additional two-year term and
- add two new members whose terms will expire in January 2026.

Table 1: Current Committee Members and Terms

Name	Geographic Location	Position Represented	Employment	Term Expiration
Jauneen Maldonado	Fort Worth	Board (Required)	Director of Adult Education, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County	December 2023
Steve Banta	Dallas/Fort Worth	Nonprofit	Executive Director, Literacy Texas	December 2023
Leslie Cantu	San Antonio	Business	Assistant Vice President of Administration, Toyotetsu	October 2024
Dr. Ben Stafford	Port Arthur	Community College/Higher Education	Vice President, Workforce and Continuing Education, Lamar State College—Port Arthur	May 2025

<b>Name</b>	<b>Geographic Location</b>	<b>Position Represented</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
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

Table 2: Committee Member Nominees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Geographic Location</b>	<b>Position Represented</b>	<b>Employment</b>	<b>Two-Year Term Expiration</b>
Jauneen Maldonado	Fort Worth	Board (Required)	Director of Adult Education, Workforce Solutions Tarrant County	January 2026 (Reappointment)
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

**Decision Point**

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