ADULT EDUCATION IN TEXAS: A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

December 2024

Texas Workforce Investment Council

The Mission of the Texas Workforce Investment Council

Assisting the Governor and the legislature with strategic planning for and evaluation of the Texas workforce system to promote the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas.

Adult Education in Texas: A Demographic Study

Texas Workforce Investment Council
December 2024 Update

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Introduction

Demographic studies yield valuable information about the population within a specific geographic location. Household and persons' economic, social, and housing information of the different categories of the population are products of demographic studies. Understanding the diverse segments of the population is crucial for assessing the quality and quantity of human resources available for socio-economic development.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated in 2019 that a highly skilled workforce is essential for employers and the overall growth of the economy. It is important that adults engage in educational activities, not only by offering opportunities for those who seek them but also by proactively promoting broader participation. Delivering high-quality information, highlighting the benefits of AEL, and providing personalized advice and guidance can enhance overall participation and inclusivity (OECD, 2019).

The Texas Workforce Investment Council

The Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) was created in 1993 by the 73rd Texas Legislature. As an advisory body to the Governor and the legislature, the Council assists with strategic planning for and evaluation of Texas' workforce system. The 19-member Council includes representatives from business, labor, education, community-based organizations, and the Council's five-member state agencies.

Statutory Directive

Under Title 10 Texas Government Code (TGC) Section 2308.101, the Council is responsible for promoting the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas and advocating the development of an integrated workforce system to provide quality workforce education and training to address the needs of employers and current and future workers in Texas.

The State Strategic Plan

The development of an integrated strategic plan for the workforce system is one of the Council's primary responsibilities. To sustain and increase economic growth, a well-trained labor supply must be available for employers seeking to establish, conduct, or expand business operations in Texas. As articulated in *Accelerating Alignment: Texas Workforce System Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2024–2031*, the Council's vision is a collaborative workforce system that drives economic prosperity for Texas and Texans. All Texans are part of the critical pool of potential employees that is and will be required by Texas employers. This includes Texas individuals eligible for Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) services in Texas.

Scope of Report

The Council prepared this report to detail the individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas. This report is an update to *Understanding the Need for Adult Education in Texas* which was last published in September 2018. The data presented in this report supersedes the data reported in the previous report. The Council further analyzed the current population in need of AEL services and examined the geographic dispersion of this need across local workforce development areas (LWDAs) in Texas. This report does not provide a detailed estimate of future service needs based on Texas population projections due to certain limitations.

Methodology

This study examines various characteristics of individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas, including their educational attainment and race/ethnicity. As with all research, the limitations associated with the data sources determine the specific types of analyses that can be conducted. Additionally, this study references and utilizes several technical concepts with specific definitions. This section details data sources, the data limitations, and the key concepts related to this research.

Data Sources

The primary data source used for this research is the U.S. Census 2022 American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is an ongoing, yearly survey that samples a small percentage of the population. The sample responses are weighted to approximate the demographic characteristics of the entire population. ACS data are available in summary tables and Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files. The microdata files use a smaller sample than the summary tables but can be used for custom analyses. In this report, microdata is used to analyze the state's eligible individuals for AEL services.

The five-year estimates are generally used to analyze smaller populations and geographies such as counties, census tracts, and census blocks (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020a; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b). Eligible individuals for AEL services by counties were calculated by aligning allocation factors developed by the Missouri Census Data Center (2022a) with the respondents in the ACS geographic segments, which is known as Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) with Texas counties. The 2022 5-year ACS microdata has two different Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA12 and PUMA22) allocated to the person's weighted survey response. Due to the geographical reallocation of population in the PUMAs, it is recommended to apply the Geocorr PUMA12 and PUMA22, respectively (Missouri Census Data Center, 2022b). Rounding may affect totals.

Data Processing

The findings from this report were processed through multifold data analyses from the aforementioned data source. The ACS PUMS (microdata) file is detailed with variables from not less than a million respondents. Therefore, the PUMS (microdata) file and MCDC data required some form of data transformation and variable categorization through data cleaning and modification. This more extensive data processing is illustrated in Appendix A.

Concepts

Adult Education is often applied as a broad reference for numerous and distinct types of adult learning activities. Individuals most in need of services or hardest to serve, including those with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, are considered eligible. For the purpose of the Council's work, the definition of *Adult Education and Literacy* is determined by Title II of the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), specifically the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. WIOA defines adult education as academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increase an eligible individual's ability to:

- read, write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities that are necessary for the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent,
- transition to postsecondary education and training, and
- obtain employment.

Under WIOA, an "eligible individual" is an individual:

- who is 16 years of age or older,
- who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under state law, and
- who:
    - is basic skills deficient;
    - does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an equivalent level of education; or
    - is an English learner.

AEL programs generally emphasize basic skills in reading, writing, math, and English language competency to prepare adults for jobs or further academic instruction. This definition, though somewhat narrowed by statutory parameters, provides a starting point for understanding the role of AEL in workforce development. A short discussion of the definition of AEL and its role within the workforce system is included in Council's previous system plan, *The Texas Workforce System Strategic Plan FY 2016-FY 2023* (Texas Workforce Investment Council, 2015).

Data Issues and Limitations

The specific analyses that can be conducted are limited to the variables that are included in the datasets. Analyses may also be limited by a lack of available data for certain geographical boundaries. For example, even though the ACS microdata provide rich demographic data with variables assessing various individual characteristics, data are not available at the county level. Therefore, analyses cannot be conducted for counties using only the ACS microdata.

Unlike the decennial census, administered to the total population to determine accurate counts, the ACS and CPS are based on samples and produce data that approximate the size of the population. Since the surveys use different samples and methodologies, the data from each source is similar but does not exactly match. When possible, ACS data are referenced since a majority of the analyses in this report are based on that dataset.

Current Population in Need of Adult Education and Literacy

Understanding the current need for AEL services is critical to policy makers and practitioners in order to evaluate program effectiveness, design services, develop strategies, and make policy recommendations. This section describes the current Texas population in need of AEL services according to the eligibility definition in Title II of WIOA using data from the 2022 ACS 5-year PUMS. Results indicate that 20.7 percent of the Texas population over the age of 16 (4,700,115) met the federal definition and qualify for AEL services. The need for AEL services varies between racial and ethnic groups. Hispanics account for the largest percentages of individuals qualifying for services in all the educational attainment categories, while Whites accounted for the second largest percentage of English fluent individuals with less than a high school diploma, GED, or high school equivalency.

Defining Need

As discussed in the Introduction, the Council's definition of AEL is determined by Title II of WIOA. In this report, individuals who are not enrolled in secondary school, and who are at least 16 years old, are eligible for AEL services if they have not earned a high school diploma (GED or high school equivalency) or are unable to speak, read, or write English. Calculating the numbers of individuals in Texas that meet these eligibility requirements provides an idea of the current need for AEL services in the state.

Description of the Current Population

The ACS is a nationwide survey conducted by the Census Bureau since 2005. The ACS provides yearly demographic and socioeconomic data such as educational attainment, English fluency, and citizenship status. ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). Survey results are statistically weighted to approximate the population of the state. The 2018–2022 multiyear estimates are based on data collected over five years and describe the average characteristics for that five-year period. For example, if the number of individuals who have not completed high school in an area was 2,000 each year from 2018 to 2021 and 5,000 in 2022, then the five-year (2018–2022) estimate would be 2,600. Compared to the one-year ACS estimates, the 2018–2022 ACS data is less current. However, the five-year estimates are more reliable since they are based on larger samples and include information from smaller geographic areas (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020a; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b).

The 2022 ACS indicates that there were 22,700,002 individuals in Texas who were at least 16 years old. Approximately 21 percent (4,700,115) are qualified for AEL services because they were not English fluent and/or did not have at least a high school diploma, GED, or high school equivalency. Looking specifically at the group of individuals traditionally considered as prime working age, that is, between the ages of 16 and 64, 17.3 percent, or a total of 3,917,473 individuals, qualified for AEL services.

Table 1 presents the numbers of individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas by nativity, fluency, and educational attainment. Information is provided for everyone who is at least 16 years old and for individuals between 16 and 64 years old. Sixty-three percent (2,961,455) of the 4,700,115 adults over 16 who are eligible for AEL services are English fluent and have less than a high school diploma.

This table also indicates that approximately 37 percent (1,738,660) of Texans eligible for AEL services are unable to speak English. To understand the percentage of adult English learners, we need to consider an individual's nativity status. Almost 33 percent (1,559,329) of individuals over the age of 16 who qualify for AEL services in Texas are non-English fluent and foreign-born. These individuals in need of English literacy skills do not necessarily lack basic educational skills, although that is often the case. About 38 percent (652,213) of Texans over 16 who are eligible for AEL services have a high school diploma, GED, or an equivalent qualification. Some may have attained a higher level of education but still do not speak English well. For example, an individual may have a college degree from his or her home country but is not able to communicate fluently in English. This individual is therefore literate and educated in his or her native language. The AEL services required by this individual would be very different compared to the services required by individuals who did not graduate high school and are unable to speak English. Providing English language skills to these individuals with higher educational attainment could empower them to achieve fluency necessary to find a job in which they can utilize their education.

Table 1 illustrates that the greatest number in need of AEL is not those who do not speak or read English well. Rather, the greatest need is in the 2,961,455 individuals who are English fluent but only have an education level ranging from 0 to 4th, 5th to 8th or 9th to 12th grade.

Table 1: Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Nativity, Fluency, and Educational Attainment, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	360,752	263,999	26,647	12,203	319,167	211,906	706,566	488,108
	12.2%	10.5%	14.9%	8.8%	20.5%	16.7%	15.0%	12.5%
5th to 8th Grade	402,873	281,223	26,308	15,833	388,328	313,891	817,509	610,947
	13.6%	11.2%	14.7%	11.4%	24.9%	24.8%	17.4%	15.6%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	2,197,830	1,967,302	32,131	28,951	293,866	260,763	2,523,827	2,257,016
	74.2%	78.3%	17.9%	20.8%	18.8%	20.6%	53.7%	57.6%
High School Graduate	*	*	39,144	34,720	297,015	263,735	336,159	298,455
	*	*	21.8%	24.9%	19.0%	20.8%	7.2%	7.6%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	7,764	6,500	35,688	27,576	43,452	34,076
	*	*	4.3%	4.7%	2.3%	2.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	29,708	26,175	122,224	102,815	151,932	128,990
	*	*	16.6%	18.8%	7.8%	8.1%	3.2%	3.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	17,629	14,874	103,041	85,007	120,670	99,881
	*	*	9.8%	10.7%	6.6%	6.7%	2.6%	2.5%
Total	2,961,455	2,512,524	179,331	139,256	1,559,329	1,265,693	4,700,115	3,917,473
	100%	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table Notes: This table presents information for everyone over the age of 16 who qualifies for AEL and the subset of individuals who are between 16 and 64. Percentages represent individuals in each column. Asterisks indicate placeholders since English fluent individuals who have at least graduated high school do not qualify for AEL. Individuals are not English fluent if they report speaking English "not well" or "not at all."

Source: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

*For comparison of current and previous report data, please see Appendix C.

Texas' population in need of AEL has decreased since the previous report. As a whole, this population slightly decreased by a hundred thousand people—from 4,807,600 in 2018 to 4,700,115 in 2024. The slight decrease comes from individuals who are English fluent and not English fluent who are foreign born. Analysis performed by educational attainment, fluency, and nativity for individuals eligible for AEL was compiled using data from the 2018 report and Table 1. A comparison of data from the previous and new reports is included in Appendix C.

To obtain more details about the population in need of AEL services, race and ethnicity were analyzed. Table 2 illustrates the numbers and percentages of individuals in each educational attainment category by race, nativity, and English fluency. Hispanics account for the largest percentage of individuals who qualify for services in all the educational attainment categories by both nativity and fluency. Whites account for the second largest percentage (793,339) of English fluent individuals with less than a high school diploma. Asians, the fastest growing race in Texas, account for the second largest percentage (150,030) of not English-fluent who are foreign born.

Table 2: Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Nativity, Fluency, Race and Educational Attainment, 2022

Educational Attainment	Race/Ethnicity	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
				Native Born		Foreign Born			
0 to 4th Grade	White	64,243	18%	591	2%	3,332	1%	68,166	10%
	African American	31,724	9%	114	0%	3,587	1%	35,425	5%
	Hispanic	236,159	65%	24,565	92%	282,764	89%	543,488	77%
	Asian	20,443	6%	1,183	4%	28,440	9%	50,066	7%
	Other	8,183	2%	194	1%	1,044	0%	9,421	1%
	Total	**360,752**	**100%**	**26,647**	**100%**	**319,167**	**100%**	**706,566**	**100%**
5th to 8th Grade	White	70,854	18%	425	2%	2,108	1%	73,387	9%
	African American	24,078	6%	37	0%	937	0%	25,052	3%
	Hispanic	294,882	73%	25,838	98%	374,164	96%	694,884	85%
	Asian	6,913	2%	0	0%	10,693	3%	17,606	2%
	Other	6,146	2%	8	0%	426	0%	6,580	1%
	Total	**402,873**	**100%**	**26,308**	**100%**	**388,328**	**100%**	**817,509**	**100%**
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	White	658,242	30%	1,093	3%	2,237	1%	661,572	26%
	African American	280,428	13%	298	1%	1,756	1%	282,482	11%
	Hispanic	1,130,038	51%	29,762	93%	264,464	90%	1,424,264	56%
	Asian	67,297	3%	843	3%	24,487	8%	92,627	4%
	Other	61,825	3%	135	0%	922	0%	62,882	2%
	Total	**2,197,830**	**100%**	**32,131**	**100%**	**293,866**	**100%**	**2,523,827**	**100%**
High School Graduate	White	*	*	2,408	6%	6,779	2%	9,187	3%
	African American	*	*	450	1%	3,334	1%	3,784	1%
	Hispanic	*	*	35,162	90%	248,792	84%	283,954	84%
	Asian	*	*	954	2%	36,885	12%	37,839	11%
	Other	*	*	170	0%	1,225	0%	1,395	0%
	Total	*****	*****	**39,144**	**100%**	**297,015**	**100%**	**336,159**	**100%**
GED or High School Equivalency	White	*	*	323	4%	682	2%	1,005	2%
	African American	*	*	36	0%	449	1%	485	1%
	Hispanic	*	*	7,358	95%	29,090	82%	36,448	84%
	Asian	*	*	45	1%	5,338	15%	5,383	12%
	Other	*	*	2	0%	129	0%	131	0%
	Total	*****	*****	**7,764**	**100%**	**35,688**	**100%**	**43,452**	**100%**
Some College or Associate's Degree	White	*	*	3,572	12%	3,537	3%	7,109	5%
	African American	*	*	1,087	4%	2,800	2%	3,887	3%
	Hispanic	*	*	23,874	80%	96,309	79%	120,183	79%
	Asian	*	*	752	3%	18,839	15%	19,591	13%
	Other	*	*	423	1%	739	1%	1,162	1%
	Total	*****	*****	**29,708**	**100%**	**122,224**	**100%**	**151,932**	**100%**
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	White	*	*	4,173	24%	6,163	6%	10,336	9%
	African American	*	*	508	3%	1,655	2%	2,163	2%
	Hispanic	*	*	11,486	65%	68,880	67%	80,366	67%
	Asian	*	*	1,028	6%	25,348	25%	26,376	22%
	Other	*	*	434	2%	995	1%	1,429	1%
	Total	*****	*****	**17,629**	**100%**	**103,041**	**100%**	**120,670**	**100%**

Table Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for Adult Education and Literacy Services

English fluency is a major component of AEL in Texas. These individuals in need of English literacy skills do not necessarily lack basic education. A total of 652,213 were unable to speak English but had an education at or above the high school graduate level, GED, or equivalent. This report considered the status of nativity or where these individuals were born. The native born who are not English fluent account for a small percentage of all individuals who are not English fluent.

This section focuses on foreign born individuals who are not fluent in English but have attained a bachelor's degree or higher. As of 2014, 4,497,584 Texans (17 percent) were foreign born, compared to more than 13 percent of the U.S. population (New American Economy, 2016). Roughly one in six Texans was foreign born, which was the same for the labor force. Texas has a thriving economy and a growing number of highly skilled jobs; therefore, the state has a continuous need for highly skilled workers to meet this demand. Foreign born Texans account for 21.8 percent (3,185,450) of the Texas civilian labor force in 2022. Thus, one in five Texans in the civilian labor force in 2022 was foreign born.

Individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher who graduated from a four-year baccalaureate degree are categorized as highly skilled. This section focuses on highly skilled individuals who are most likely from other countries and whose first language is not English. The previous tables provided some basic information about this category of individuals. Table 1 indicates that there are 103,041 individuals within this category eligible for AEL services in Texas. Table 2 illustrates that 67 percent of these individuals are Hispanics, 25 percent are Asians, and six percent are Whites. More details about this category of individuals are provided in this section.

Figure 1 illustrates the highly skilled foreign born individuals who are not fluent in English by age category and gender. About 80 percent of males and females are within the working age category (16 to 64). Approximately 45 percent and 46 percent of males and females, respectively, are within the age of 35 to 54 years. Whereas 16.3 percent and 21.9 percent of males and females, respectively, are between the ages of 16 to 34 years.

Figure 1: Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Age Category and Gender, 2022

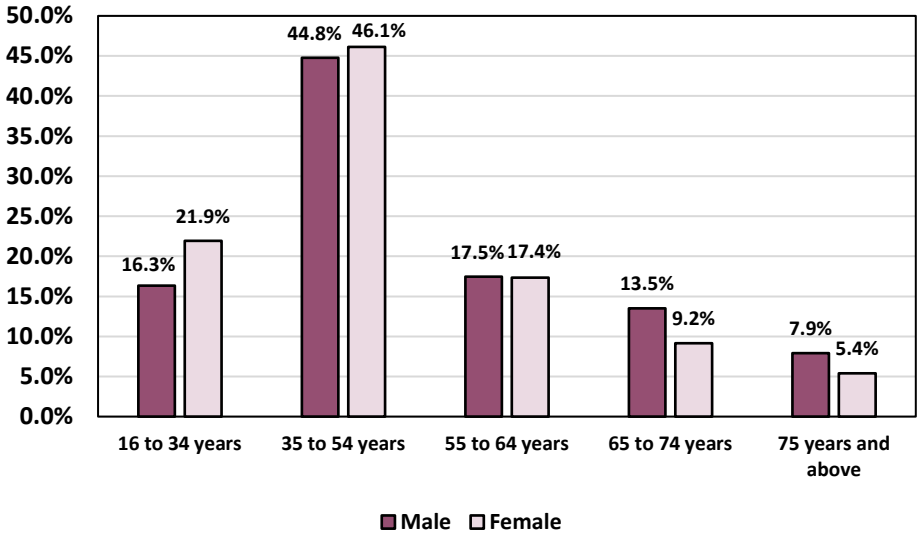


Figure Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Table 3 illustrates the participation of highly skilled foreign born individuals in the civilian labor force who are not fluent in English by age category. Approximately 58 percent (59,457) of these individuals are labor force participants, and 43,584 (42 percent) are not labor force participants. Approximately 94 percent of the employed individuals are within the working age (16 to 64). More than half (54 percent) are between the ages of 35 to 54 years old.

Table 3: Labor Force Participation of Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas, 2022

Age Category	Not in Labor Force		Labor Force Participants			
			Employed		Unemployed	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
16 to 34 years	8,546	19.6%	10,873	19.5%	718	20.0%
35 to 54 years	14,255	32.7%	30,511	54.6%	2,165	60.4%
55 to 64 years	6,493	14.9%	10,818	19.4%	628	17.5%
65 to 74 years	8,150	18.7%	3,143	5.6%	60	1.7%
75 years and above	6,140	14.1%	526	0.9%	15	0.4%
Total	**43,584**	**100%**	**55,871**	**100%**	**3,586**	**100%**

Table Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Table 4 assessed the top 20 occupations that employed highly skilled foreign born individuals who are not English fluent in 2022. Approximately 40 percent of these individuals who are labor force participants in Texas held one of these 20 positions. Approximately four percent (2,252) were employed as driver/sales workers and truck drivers, followed by a total of 1,821 individuals (3.1 percent) employed as cooks and 1,679 individuals (2.8 percent) employed as construction laborers.

Table 4: Top 20 Occupations of Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas, 2022

Occupations	Employed Age 16 and Above	
	Number	Percent
Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers	2,252	3.8%
Cooks	1,821	3.1%
Construction Laborers	1,679	2.8%
Janitors and Building Cleaners	1,427	2.4%
Retail Salespersons	1,408	2.4%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,362	2.3%
Other Managers	1,278	2.1%
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	1,265	2.1%
Teaching Assistants	1,214	2.0%
Accountants and Auditors	1,167	2.0%
Cashiers	1,084	1.8%
Software Developers	956	1.6%
Painters and Paperhangers	943	1.6%
Childcare Workers	932	1.6%
Registered Nurses	921	1.5%
Carpenters	886	1.5%
Stockers and Order Fillers	816	1.4%
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	730	1.2%
Postsecondary Teachers	709	1.2%
Clergy	694	1.2%
Table Total	**23,544**	**39.6%**

Table Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Table 5 illustrates the field of study of the employed highly skilled foreign born individuals who are not English fluent in 2022. Approximately 62 percent of these individuals who are labor force participants in Texas have a degree in the top 20 listed fields of degree. Approximately eight percent (4,873) of these individuals' field of degree is accounting. Similarly, 4784 individuals (eight percent) have a degree in business management and administration.

Table 5: Top 20 Field of Degree of Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas, 2022

Field of Degree	Employed Age 16 and Above	
	Number	Percent
Accounting	4,873	8.2%
Business Management and Administration	4,784	8.0%
General Education	3,113	5.2%
General Engineering	2,540	4.3%
General Business	2,214	3.7%
Nursing	1,867	3.1%
Mechanical Engineering	1,746	2.9%
Electrical Engineering	1,730	2.9%
Psychology	1,535	2.6%
Economics	1,380	2.3%
Biology	1,359	2.3%
Computer Science	1,281	2.2%
Elementary Education	1,234	2.1%
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering	1,200	2.0%
Civil Engineering	1,171	2.0%
Physical Fitness Parks Recreation and Leisure	1,077	1.8%
Marketing and Marketing Research	941	1.6%
Communications	904	1.5%
Finance	870	1.5%
Computer Engineering	758	1.3%
Table Total	**36,577**	**61.5%**

Table Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Geographic Distribution of Current Need for Adult Education and Literacy in Texas

As part of the Council's standard approach to demographic research, the geographic distribution of population segments is calculated and represented on a map. This section details the number of individuals aged 16 and older who qualify for AEL in each of the 28 local workforce development areas (LWDA).

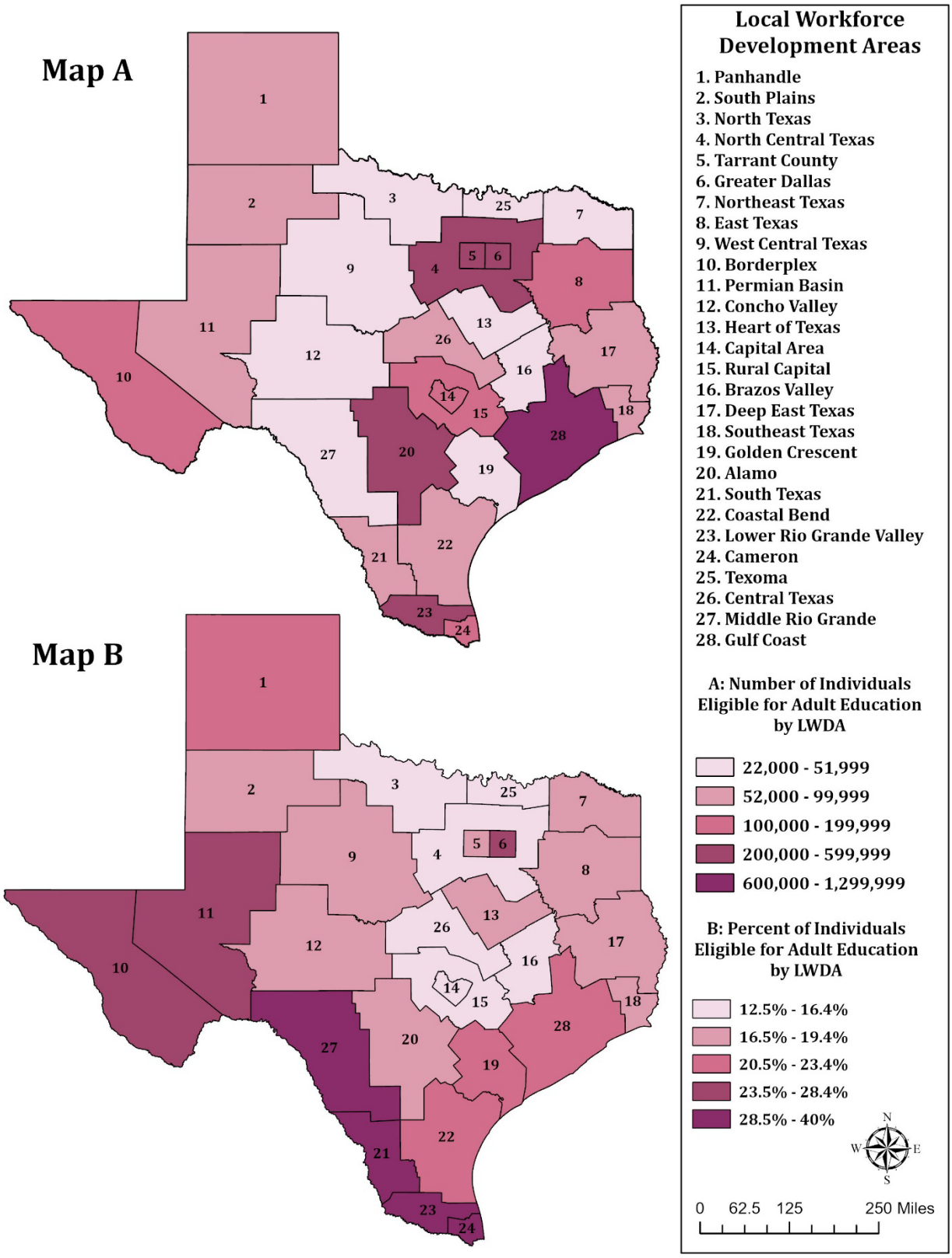
The 28 Local Workforce Development Areas

Under Title 10 TGC Sections 2308.1015 and 2308.1016, the Council is responsible for facilitating the delivery of integrated workforce services and the efficient delivery of integrated AEL services in Texas. To assist workforce system partners and stakeholders in coordinating program planning and delivery and in designing integrated services, the Council identified the 28 LWDAs to analyze the geographic distribution of current populations needing AEL services. These geographic regions are well-established among system partners and stakeholders, serving as the boundaries within which funding is allocated for various workforce programs and initiatives.

Figure 2 shows the 28 LWDAs across the state. Map A displays the total number of individuals eligible for services, while Map B illustrates the rate of eligibility. The eligibility rate for AEL services in each LWDA was determined by dividing the total population (denominator) by the number of eligible individuals (numerator), specifically for those aged 16 years and older.

Over 1.2 million Texans in the Gulf Coast area are eligible for AEL services. Gulf Coast has the highest number of individuals followed by Greater Dallas (514,430), Alamo (396,467), and North Central Texas (334,467) as shown by the darker purple on the map. Map B offers a different perspective to help system partners identify LWDAs with a high percentage of adults eligible for AEL services. About 40 percent of Texans 16 years and over in Lower Rio Grande Valley, South Texas, Middle Rio Grande, and Cameron are eligible for AEL services. Thus, for every 10 adults 16 years and over, four are eligible for AEL services in these LWDAs.

Figure 2: Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by LWDA, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

Summary Table of the Geographic Distribution of Current Need

This table includes detail by nativity, fluency, and educational attainment. Table 6 summarizes the total numbers of individuals eligible for AEL services in each LWDA. Gulf Coast has the highest percentages of individuals in all three categories (English fluent; not English fluent-native born; and not English fluent-foreign born) followed by Greater Dallas, North Central, and Alamo. Appendix B presents the numbers of individuals over the age of 16 eligible for AEL services broken down into each LWDA.

Table 6: Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by LWDA, 2022

LWDA	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
1. Panhandle	51,696	1.7%	1,343	0.7%	17,160	1.1%	70,199	1.5%
2. South Plains	50,204	1.7%	2,303	1.3%	9,698	0.6%	62,205	1.3%
3. North Texas	23,352	0.8%	460	0.3%	3,510	0.2%	27,322	0.6%
4. North Central Texas	247,062	8.3%	9,922	5.5%	77,270	5.0%	334,254	7.1%
5. Tarrant County	203,548	6.9%	8,116	4.5%	95,561	6.1%	307,225	6.5%
6. Greater Dallas	281,035	9.5%	11,123	6.2%	222,272	14.3%	514,430	10.9%
7. Northeast Texas	31,155	1.1%	638	0.4%	5,020	0.3%	36,813	0.8%
8. East Texas	101,765	3.4%	1,700	0.9%	19,446	1.2%	122,911	2.6%
9. West Central Texas	38,143	1.3%	1,559	0.9%	4,502	0.3%	44,204	0.9%
10 Borderplex	87,497	3.0%	14,916	8.3%	84,927	5.4%	187,340	4.0%
11. Permian Basin	69,560	2.3%	3,935	2.2%	22,399	1.4%	95,894	2.0%
12. Concho Valley	18,418	0.6%	966	0.5%	3,463	0.2%	22,847	0.5%
13. Heart of Texas	38,856	1.3%	1,012	0.6%	10,687	0.7%	50,555	1.1%
14. Capital Area	92,682	3.1%	5,908	3.3%	52,620	3.4%	151,210	3.2%
15. Rural Capital	89,175	3.0%	4,151	2.3%	28,078	1.8%	121,404	2.6%
16. Brazos Valley	32,957	1.1%	1,109	0.6%	9,321	0.6%	43,387	0.9%
17. Deep East Texas	47,559	1.6%	614	0.3%	7,990	0.5%	56,163	1.2%
18. Southeast Texas	44,249	1.5%	2,067	1.2%	10,503	0.7%	56,819	1.2%
19. Golden Crescent	25,216	0.9%	1,050	0.6%	4,306	0.3%	30,572	0.7%
20. Alamo	276,946	9.4%	20,996	11.7%	98,525	6.3%	396,467	8.4%
21. South Texas	36,036	1.2%	9,150	5.1%	35,208	2.3%	80,394	1.7%
22. Coastal Bend	79,516	2.7%	5,366	3.0%	12,178	0.8%	97,060	2.1%
23. Lower Rio Grande Valley	125,312	4.2%	17,121	9.5%	129,481	8.3%	271,914	5.8%
24. Cameron	57,861	2.0%	8,870	4.9%	49,666	3.2%	116,397	2.5%
25. Texoma	21,840	0.7%	515	0.3%	3,768	0.2%	26,123	0.6%
26. Central Texas	47,970	1.6%	2,087	1.2%	8,464	0.5%	58,521	1.2%
27. Middle Rio Grande	26,518	0.9%	3,701	2.1%	15,560	1.0%	45,779	1.0%
28. Gulf Coast	715,326	24.2%	38,619	21.5%	517,736	33.2%	1,271,681	27.1%
Total	**2,961,454**	**100%**	**179,317**	**100%**	**1,559,319**	**100%**	**4,700,090**	**100%**

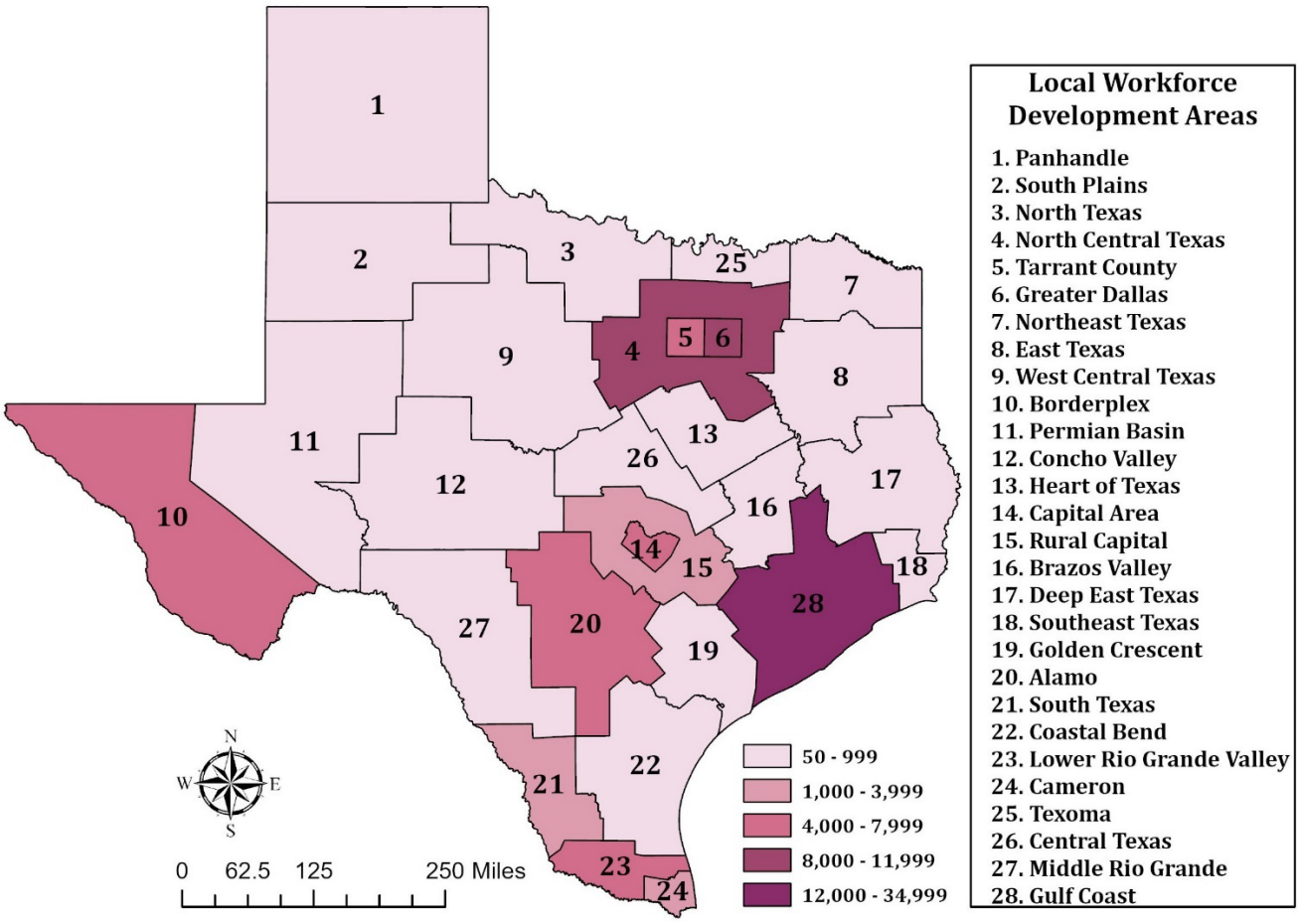
Table Notes: 2022 ACS PUMS (microdata).

Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for Adult Education and Literacy Services by LWDA, 2022

This section provides more information about individuals in need of English literacy skills but who have attained a high level of education in every LWDA in Texas to complement the information provided in Figure 1 and Tables 3, 4, and 5. Over a hundred thousand foreign born individuals with bachelor's degrees who are not English fluent are eligible for AEL services in Texas. This section details the geographic distribution of these individuals by LWDA.

Figure 3 shows that highly skilled foreign born individuals who are not English fluent are more located in the workforce boards in areas such as the Houston metro area, San Antonio-New Braunfels, Austin-Round Rock, and Dallas Fort Worth metro areas. The Gulf Coast accounts for the highest number of these individuals with 34,612 (33.6 percent), followed by Greater Dallas with 11,988 (11.6 percent), North Central Texas with 10,471 (10.2 percent), Lower Rio Grande Valley with 7,298 (7.1 percent), and Alamo with 6,468 (6.3 percent).

Figure 3: Highly Skilled Foreign Born Individuals Eligible for AEL Services by LWDA, 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

Concluding Comments

This study estimates the number of individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas. A thorough analysis was conducted to assess the current population in need of these services, with a specific focus on foreign born Texans who are not fluent in English but have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. Additionally, the study includes information on the geographic distribution of the current demand for AEL services in Texas. This estimation was based on the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

The 2022 ACS reports that there are 22,700,002 Texans aged 16 and older. Among them, 4,700,115 individuals currently require AEL services. This figure marks a slight decline from the 4,807,600 Texans estimated in the 2018 report. Hispanics constitute the largest racial and ethnic group eligible for adult education services across all educational attainment categories, regardless of nativity or language fluency. Whites are the second largest group among Texans who are fluent in English but have not completed high school. Additionally, just over 100,000 foreign born Texans, who are not English fluent and possess a bachelor's degree or higher, also qualify for AEL services. A significant percentage of these individuals, both male and female, are within the working age range of 16 to 64 years old.

The geographic distribution outlined in this report aims to help workforce system partners and stakeholders coordinate program planning and delivery, as well as design integrated services. The Gulf Coast region has the highest number of Texans eligible for AEL services, totaling over 1.2 million individuals, which represents approximately 27 percent of all eligible Texans. This is followed by the Dallas and Alamo local board areas.

This report offers a more comprehensive and authoritative determination of the current populations in need of AEL services in Texas. Texas has a robust economy and a demand for skilled jobs. However, there is a constant need for a highly skilled workforce to meet the ongoing demands of the modern digital economy. Hence, this research can assist policy makers and program administration develop or modify policy and service delivery strategies.

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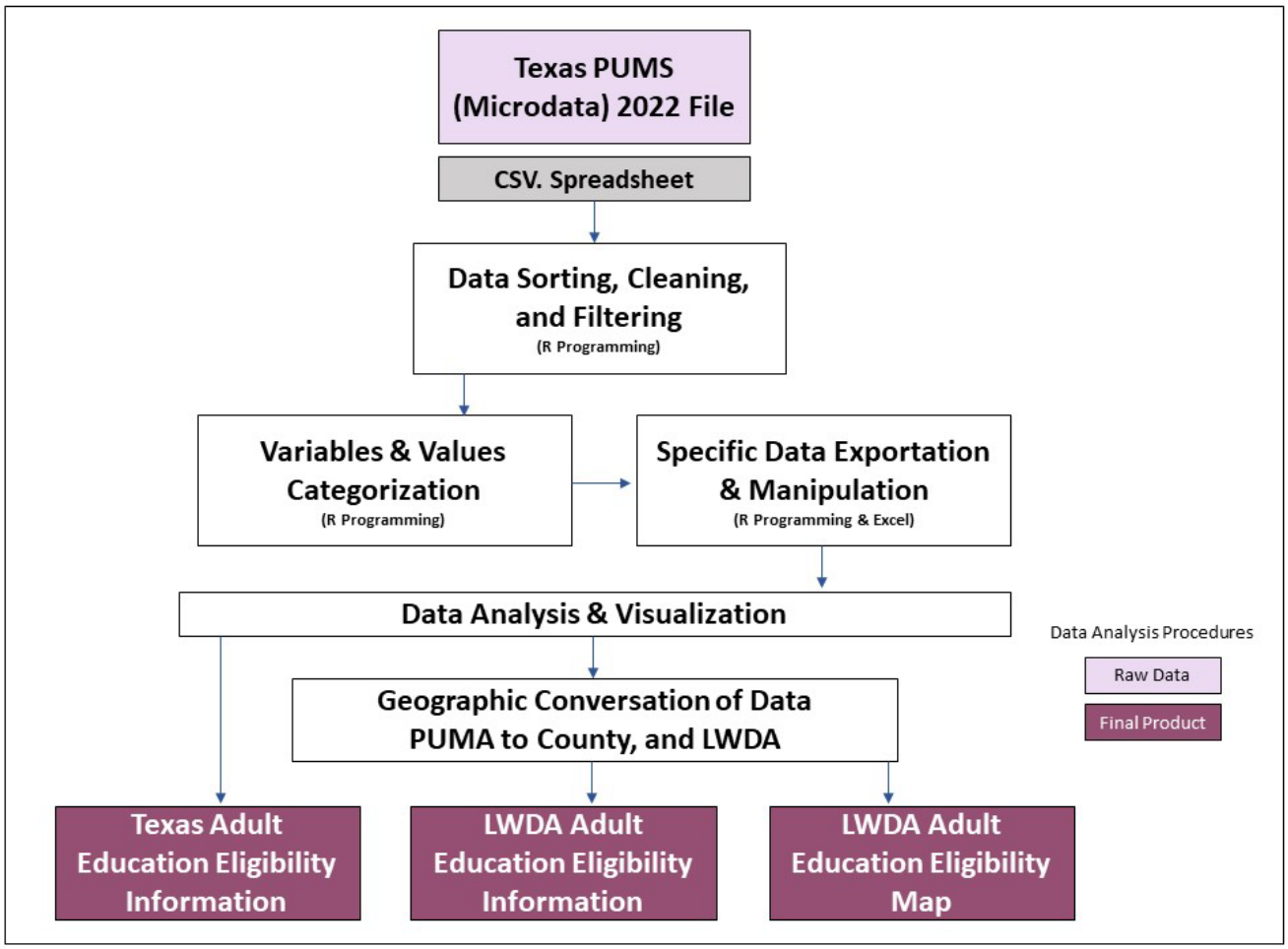
Appendix A: Data Processing Framework



Appendix B: Current Need for AEL by LWDA

This appendix presents the numbers of individuals over the age of 16 who qualify for AEL by each LWDA. The numbers were calculated using the American Community Survey 2022 five-year estimates. The five-year estimates describe the average social, economic, and demographic characteristics for the five-year period between 2018 and 2022. Individuals are not English fluent if they report speaking English "not well" or "not at all." Percentages represent individuals in each column. The asterisks in each table are placeholders since English fluent individuals who have at least graduated high school do not qualify for AEL.

LWDA 1: Panhandle

Counties Served: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochilltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, Wheeler.

Table 7: LWDA 1 Panhandle - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	7,007	13.6%	271	20.2%	3,846	22.4%	11,124	15.8%
5th to 8th Grade	8,789	17.0%	89	6.6%	5,084	29.6%	13,962	19.9%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	35,900	69.4%	283	21.1%	2,548	14.8%	38,731	55.2%
High School Graduate	*	*	302	22.5%	3,565	20.8%	3,867	5.5%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	52	3.9%	304	1.8%	356	0.5%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	233	17.3%	1,188	6.9%	1,421	2.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	113	8.4%	625	3.6%	738	1.1%
Total	**51,696**	**100%**	**1,343**	**100%**	**17,160**	**100%**	**70,199**	**100%**

LWDA 2: South Plains

Counties Served: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lynn, Motley, Terry, Yoakum, Garza, Lubbock.

Table 8: LWDA 2 South Plains - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	6,524	13.0%	505	21.9%	2,371	24.4%	9,400	15.1%
5th to 8th Grade	9,056	18.0%	464	20.1%	2,634	27.2%	12,154	19.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	34,624	69.0%	219	9.5%	1,992	20.5%	36,835	59.2%
High School Graduate	*	*	397	17.2%	1,515	15.6%	1,912	3.1%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	210	9.1%	85	0.9%	295	0.5%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	372	16.2%	442	4.6%	814	1.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	136	5.9%	659	6.8%	795	1.3%
Total	**50,204**	**100%**	**2,303**	**100%**	**9,698**	**100%**	**62,205**	**100%**

LWDA 3: North Texas

Counties Served: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young.

Table 9: LWDA 3 North Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	2,544	10.9%	11	2.4%	1,266	36.1%	3,821	14.0%
5th to 8th Grade	3,012	12.9%	64	13.9%	712	20.3%	3,788	13.9%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	17,796	76.2%	127	27.6%	604	17.2%	18,527	67.8%
High School Graduate	*	*	94	20.4%	515	14.7%	609	2.2%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	0	0.0%	46	1.3%	46	0.2%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	68	14.8%	207	5.9%	275	1.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	96	20.9%	160	4.6%	256	0.9%
Total	**23,352**	**100%**	**460**	**100%**	**3,510**	**100%**	**27,322**	**100%**

LWDA 4: North Central

Counties Served: Collin, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Wise.

Table 10: LWDA 4 North Central - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	27,640	11.2%	1,182	11.9%	13,845	17.9%	42,667	12.8%
5th to 8th Grade	23,541	9.5%	1,659	16.7%	15,160	19.6%	40,360	12.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	195,881	79.3%	2,502	25.2%	12,257	15.9%	210,640	63.0%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,604	16.2%	16,128	20.9%	17,732	5.3%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	339	3.4%	1,714	2.2%	2,053	0.6%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,236	12.5%	7,695	10.0%	8,931	2.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	1,400	14.1%	10,471	13.6%	11,871	3.6%
Total	**247,062**	**100%**	**9,922**	**100%**	**77,270**	**100%**	**334,254**	**100%**

LWDA 5: Tarrant County

Counties Served: Tarrant.

Table 11: LWDA 5 Tarrant County - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	20,883	10.3%	1,265	15.6%	17,315	18.1%	39,463	12.8%
5th to 8th Grade	24,835	12.2%	991	12.2%	22,871	23.9%	48,697	15.9%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	157,830	77.5%	1,302	16.0%	21,812	22.8%	180,944	58.9%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,922	23.7%	19,700	20.6%	21,622	7.0%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	350	4.3%	2,210	2.3%	2,560	0.8%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,514	18.7%	6,023	6.3%	7,537	2.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	772	9.5%	5,630	5.9%	6,402	2.1%
Total	**203,548**	**100%**	**8,116**	**100%**	**95,561**	**100%**	**307,225**	**100%**

LWDA 6: Greater Dallas

Counties Served: Dallas.

Table 12: LWDA 6 Greater Dallas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	38,112	13.6%	1,624	14.6%	43,918	19.8%	83,654	16.3%
5th to 8th Grade	42,124	15.0%	1,484	13.3%	58,003	26.1%	101,611	19.8%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	200,799	71.4%	2,050	18.4%	47,349	21.3%	250,198	48.6%
High School Graduate	*	*	2,269	20.4%	43,263	19.5%	45,532	8.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	551	5.0%	3,290	1.5%	3,841	0.7%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,831	16.5%	14,461	6.5%	16,292	3.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	1,314	11.8%	11,988	5.4%	13,302	2.6%
Total	**281,035**	**100%**	**11,123**	**100%**	**222,272**	**100%**	**514,430**	**100%**

LWDA 7: Northeast

Counties Served: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus.

Table 13: LWDA 7 North East - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	2,989	9.6%	48	7.5%	939	18.7%	3,976	10.8%
5th to 8th Grade	4,598	14.8%	242	37.9%	1,527	30.4%	6,367	17.3%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	23,568	75.6%	63	9.9%	855	17.0%	24,486	66.5%
High School Graduate	*	*	123	19.3%	962	19.2%	1,085	2.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	18	2.8%	71	1.4%	89	0.2%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	96	15.0%	494	9.8%	590	1.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	48	7.5%	172	3.4%	220	0.6%
Total	**31,155**	**100%**	**638**	**100%**	**5,020**	**100%**	**36,813**	**100%**

LWDA 8: East Texas

Counties Served: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood.

Table 14: LWDA 8 East Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	8,732	8.6%	295	17.4%	3,941	20.3%	12,968	10.6%
5th to 8th Grade	13,026	12.8%	268	15.8%	6,446	33.1%	19,740	16.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	80,007	78.6%	293	17.2%	4,267	21.9%	84,567	68.8%
High School Graduate	*	*	398	23.4%	2,621	13.5%	3,019	2.5%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	77	4.5%	314	1.6%	391	0.3%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	208	12.2%	1,307	6.7%	1,515	1.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	161	9.5%	550	2.8%	711	0.6%
Total	**101,765**	**100%**	**1,700**	**100%**	**19,446**	**100%**	**122,911**	**100%**

LWDA 9: West Central

Counties Served: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton.

Table 15: LWDA 9 West Central - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	4,148	10.9%	225	14.4%	1,016	22.6%	5,389	12.2%
5th to 8th Grade	5,303	13.9%	252	16.2%	1,004	22.3%	6,559	14.8%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	28,692	75.2%	424	27.2%	813	18.1%	29,929	67.7%
High School Graduate	*	*	285	18.3%	920	20.4%	1,205	2.7%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	11	0.7%	186	4.1%	197	0.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	173	11.1%	333	7.4%	506	1.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	189	12.1%	230	5.1%	419	0.9%
Total	**38,143**	**100%**	**1,559**	**100%**	**4,502**	**100%**	**44,204**	**100%**

LWDA 10: Borderplex

Counties Served: Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio.

Table 16: LWDA 10 Borderplex - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	12,109	13.8%	1,582	10.6%	16,053	18.9%	29,744	15.9%
5th to 8th Grade	12,804	14.6%	2,226	14.9%	22,236	26.2%	37,266	19.9%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	62,584	71.5%	2,470	16.6%	17,253	20.3%	82,307	43.9%
High School Graduate	*	*	2,826	18.9%	9,966	11.7%	12,792	6.8%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	1,034	6.9%	6,493	7.6%	7,527	4.0%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	3,250	21.8%	8,117	9.6%	11,367	6.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	1,528	10.2%	4,809	5.7%	6,337	3.4%
Total	**87,497**	**100%**	**14,916**	**100%**	**84,927**	**100%**	**187,340**	**100%**

LWDA 11: Permian Basin

Counties Served: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, Winkler.

Table 27: LWDA 11 Permian Basin - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	10,539	15.2%	826	21.0%	7,142	31.9%	18,507	19.3%
5th to 8th Grade	10,122	14.6%	452	11.5%	5,268	23.5%	15,842	16.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	48,899	70.3%	904	23.0%	4,196	18.7%	53,999	56.3%
High School Graduate	*	*	781	19.8%	3,132	14.0%	3,913	4.1%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	330	8.4%	462	2.1%	792	0.8%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	373	9.5%	1,321	5.9%	1,694	1.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	269	6.8%	878	3.9%	1,147	1.2%
Total	**69,560**	**100%**	**3,935**	**100%**	**22,399**	**100%**	**95,894**	**100%**

LWDA 12: Concho Valley

Counties Served: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green.

Table 38: LWDA 12 Concho Valley - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	2,425	13.2%	235	24.3%	852	24.6%	3,512	15.4%
5th to 8th Grade	3,071	16.7%	109	11.3%	984	28.4%	4,164	18.2%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	12,922	70.2%	123	12.7%	670	19.3%	13,715	60.0%
High School Graduate	*	*	187	19.4%	499	14.4%	686	3.0%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	16	1.7%	125	3.6%	141	0.6%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	287	29.7%	256	7.4%	543	2.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	9	0.9%	77	2.2%	86	0.4%
Total	**18,418**	**100%**	**966**	**100%**	**3,463**	**100%**	**22,847**	**100%**

LWDA 13: Heart of Texas

Counties Served: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan.

Table 49: LWDA 13 Heart of Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	3,506	9.0%	295	29.2%	1,673	15.7%	5,474	10.8%
5th to 8th Grade	5,657	14.6%	51	5.0%	3,494	32.7%	9,202	18.2%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	29,693	76.4%	175	17.3%	2,428	22.7%	32,296	63.9%
High School Graduate	*	*	269	26.6%	2,221	20.8%	2,490	4.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	0	0.0%	89	0.8%	89	0.2%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	172	17.0%	577	5.4%	749	1.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	50	4.9%	205	1.9%	255	0.5%
Total	**38,856**	**100%**	**1,012**	**100%**	**10,687**	**100%**	**50,555**	**100%**

LWDA 14: Capital Area

Counties Served: Travis.

Table 20: LWDA 14 Capital Area - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	13,979	15.1%	702	11.9%	10,101	19.2%	24,782	16.4%
5th to 8th Grade	13,069	14.1%	872	14.8%	10,962	20.8%	24,903	16.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	65,634	70.8%	1,174	19.9%	7,156	13.6%	73,964	48.9%
High School Graduate	*	*	964	16.3%	12,735	24.2%	13,699	9.1%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	150	2.5%	945	1.8%	1,095	0.7%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	841	14.2%	4,719	9.0%	5,560	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	1,205	20.4%	6,002	11.4%	7,207	4.8%
Total	**92,682**	**100%**	**5,908**	**100%**	**52,620**	**100%**	**151,210**	**100%**

LWDA 15: Rural Capital

Counties Served: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Williamson.

Table 21: LWDA 15 Rural Capital - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	10,602	11.9%	409	9.9%	5,731	20.4%	16,742	13.8%
5th to 8th Grade	9,780	11.0%	617	14.9%	5,546	19.8%	15,943	13.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	68,793	77.1%	404	9.7%	3,926	14.0%	73,123	60.2%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,152	27.8%	6,705	23.9%	7,857	6.5%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	274	6.6%	980	3.5%	1,254	1.0%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	982	23.7%	1,964	7.0%	2,946	2.4%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	313	7.5%	3,226	11.5%	3,539	2.9%
Total	**89,175**	**100%**	**4,151**	**100%**	**28,078**	**100%**	**121,404**	**100%**

LWDA 16: Brazos Valley

Counties Served: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Washington.

Table 22: LWDA 16 Brazos Valley - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	3,704	11.2%	96	8.7%	2,327	25.0%	6,127	14.1%
5th to 8th Grade	4,566	13.9%	58	5.2%	1,944	20.9%	6,568	15.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	24,687	74.9%	412	37.2%	1,797	19.3%	26,896	62.0%
High School Graduate	*	*	191	17.2%	1,829	19.6%	2,020	4.7%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	50	4.5%	115	1.2%	165	0.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	187	16.9%	630	6.8%	817	1.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	115	10.4%	679	7.3%	794	1.8%
Total	**32,957**	**100%**	**1,109**	**100%**	**9,321**	**100%**	**43,387**	**100%**

LWDA 17: Deep East Texas

Counties Served: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler.

Table 23: LWDA 17 Deep East Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	5,080	10.7%	73	11.9%	2,180	27.3%	7,333	13.1%
5th to 8th Grade	8,372	17.6%	124	20.2%	2,204	27.6%	10,700	19.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	34,107	71.7%	121	19.7%	1,436	18.0%	35,664	63.5%
High School Graduate	*	*	127	20.7%	1,412	17.7%	1,539	2.7%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	7	1.1%	292	3.7%	299	0.5%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	100	16.3%	305	3.8%	405	0.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	62	10.1%	161	2.0%	223	0.4%
Total	**47,559**	**100%**	**614**	**100%**	**7,990**	**100%**	**56,163**	**100%**

LWDA 18: Southeast Texas

Counties Served: Hardin, Jefferson, Orange.

Table 24: LWDA 18 South East Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	4,731	10.7%	104	5.0%	2,404	22.9%	7,239	12.7%
5th to 8th Grade	5,555	12.6%	429	20.8%	2,971	28.3%	8,955	15.8%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	33,963	76.8%	246	11.9%	1,877	17.9%	36,086	63.5%
High School Graduate	*	*	463	22.4%	1,742	16.6%	2,205	3.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	21	1.0%	318	3.0%	339	0.6%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	636	30.8%	810	7.7%	1,446	2.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	168	8.1%	381	3.6%	549	1.0%
Total	**44,249**	**100%**	**2,067**	**100%**	**10,503**	**100%**	**56,819**	**100%**

LWDA 19: Golden Crescent

Counties Served: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria.

Table 55: LWDA 19 Golden Crescent - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	2,656	10.5%	276	26.3%	789	18.3%	3,721	12.2%
5th to 8th Grade	4,473	17.7%	157	15.0%	1,116	25.9%	5,746	18.8%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	18,087	71.7%	108	10.3%	1,073	24.9%	19,268	63.0%
High School Graduate	*	*	273	26.0%	724	16.8%	997	3.3%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	46	4.4%	143	3.3%	189	0.6%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	130	12.4%	338	7.8%	468	1.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	60	5.7%	123	2.9%	183	0.6%
Total	**25,216**	**100%**	**1,050**	**100%**	**4,306**	**100%**	**30,572**	**100%**

LWDA 20: Alamo

Counties Served: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, Wilson.

Table 66: LWDA 20 Alamo - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	32,190	11.6%	2,651	12.6%	18,403	18.7%	53,244	13.4%
5th to 8th Grade	36,413	13.1%	2,509	11.9%	25,396	25.8%	64,318	16.2%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	208,343	75.2%	3,284	15.6%	19,128	19.4%	230,755	58.2%
High School Graduate	*	*	4,447	21.2%	18,973	19.3%	23,420	5.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	901	4.3%	2,570	2.6%	3,471	0.9%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	5,032	24.0%	7,587	7.7%	12,619	3.2%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	2,172	10.3%	6,468	6.6%	8,640	2.2%
Total	**276,946**	**100%**	**20,996**	**100%**	**98,525**	**100%**	**396,467**	**100%**

LWDA 21: South Texas

Counties Served: Jim Hogg, Webb, Zapata.

Table 77: LWDA 21 South Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	4,214	11.7%	1,460	16.0%	5,014	14.2%	10,688	13.3%
5th to 8th Grade	5,986	16.6%	2,043	22.3%	9,380	26.6%	17,409	21.7%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	25,836	71.7%	2,347	25.7%	9,281	26.4%	37,464	46.6%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,356	14.8%	4,804	13.6%	6,160	7.7%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	293	3.2%	871	2.5%	1,164	1.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,323	14.5%	3,348	9.5%	4,671	5.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	328	3.6%	2,510	7.1%	2,838	3.5%
Total	**36,036**	**100%**	**9,150**	**100%**	**35,208**	**100%**	**80,394**	**100%**

LWDA 22: Coastal Bend

Counties Served: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio.

Table 88: LWDA 22 Coastal Bend - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	8,793	11.1%	1,177	21.9%	3,152	25.9%	13,122	13.5%
5th to 8th Grade	14,124	17.8%	939	17.5%	2,657	21.8%	17,720	18.3%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	56,599	71.2%	738	13.8%	2,074	17.0%	59,411	61.2%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,040	19.4%	2,311	19.0%	3,351	3.5%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	72	1.3%	272	2.2%	344	0.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	859	16.0%	735	6.0%	1,594	1.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	541	10.1%	977	8.0%	1,518	1.6%
Total	**79,516**	**100%**	**5,366**	**100%**	**12,178**	**100%**	**97,060**	**100%**

LWDA 23: Lower Rio Grande Valley

Counties Served: Hidalgo, Starr, Willacy.

Table 99: LWDA 23 Lower Rio Grande Valley - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	12,829	10.2%	3,873	22.6%	26,052	20.1%	42,754	15.7%
5th to 8th Grade	20,854	16.6%	3,305	19.3%	38,629	29.8%	62,788	23.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	91,629	73.1%	3,278	19.1%	27,861	21.5%	122,768	45.1%
High School Graduate	*	*	3,623	21.2%	18,829	14.5%	22,452	8.3%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	411	2.4%	2,069	1.6%	2,480	0.9%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,422	8.3%	8,743	6.8%	10,165	3.7%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	1,209	7.1%	7,298	5.6%	8,507	3.1%
Total	**125,312**	**100%**	**17,121**	**100%**	**129,481**	**100%**	**271,914**	**100%**

LWDA 24: Cameron County

Counties Served: Cameron.

Table 30: LWDA 24 Cameron County - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	7,628	13.2%	1,583	17.8%	10,031	20.2%	19,242	16.5%
5th to 8th Grade	9,201	15.9%	1,683	19.0%	13,840	27.9%	24,724	21.2%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	41,032	70.9%	1,294	14.6%	10,576	21.3%	52,902	45.4%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,868	21.1%	7,273	14.6%	9,141	7.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	554	6.2%	1,041	2.1%	1,595	1.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	1,175	13.2%	4,015	8.1%	5,190	4.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	713	8.0%	2,890	5.8%	3,603	3.1%
Total	**57,861**	**100%**	**8,870**	**100%**	**49,666**	**100%**	**116,397**	**100%**

LWDA 25: Texoma

Counties Served: Cooke, Fannin, Grayson.

Table 31: LWDA 25 Texoma - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	2,241	10.3%	23	4.5%	586	15.6%	2,850	10.9%
5th to 8th Grade	2,965	13.6%	123	23.9%	907	24.1%	3,995	15.3%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	16,634	76.2%	131	25.4%	975	25.9%	17,740	67.9%
High School Graduate	*	*	158	30.7%	889	23.6%	1,047	4.0%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	31	6.0%	14	0.4%	45	0.2%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	35	6.8%	243	6.4%	278	1.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	14	2.7%	154	4.1%	168	0.6%
Total	**21,840**	**100%**	**515**	**100%**	**3,768**	**100%**	**26,123**	**100%**

LWDA 26: Central Texas

Counties Served: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, San Saba.

Table 32: LWDA 26 Central Texas - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	5,279	11.0%	152	7.3%	2,037	24.1%	7,468	12.8%
5th to 8th Grade	4,957	10.3%	97	4.6%	1,676	19.8%	6,730	11.5%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	37,734	78.7%	268	12.8%	1,683	19.9%	39,685	67.8%
High School Graduate	*	*	520	24.9%	1,791	21.2%	2,311	3.9%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	84	4.0%	129	1.5%	213	0.4%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	721	34.5%	719	8.5%	1,440	2.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	245	11.7%	429	5.1%	674	1.2%
Total	**47,970**	**100%**	**2,087**	**100%**	**8,464**	**100%**	**58,521**	**100%**

LWDA 27: Middle Rio Grande

Counties Served: Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Zavala.

Table 33: LWDA 27 Middle Rio Grande - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	3,147	11.9%	549	14.8%	3,669	23.6%	7,365	16.1%
5th to 8th Grade	5,567	21.0%	458	12.4%	3,993	25.7%	10,018	21.9%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	17,804	67.1%	823	22.2%	2,935	18.9%	21,562	47.1%
High School Graduate	*	*	1,245	33.6%	2,216	14.2%	3,461	7.6%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	169	4.6%	740	4.8%	909	2.0%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	422	11.4%	1,333	8.6%	1,755	3.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	35	0.9%	674	4.3%	709	1.5%
Total	**26,518**	**100%**	**3,701**	**100%**	**15,560**	**100%**	**45,779**	**100%**

LWDA 28: Gulf Coast

Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton.

Table 34: LWDA 28 Gulf Coast - Individuals Eligible for AEL Services, 2022

Educational Attainment	English Fluent		Not English Fluent				Total	
			Native Born		Foreign Born			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 to 4th Grade	96,527	13.5%	5,151	13.3%	112,518	21.7%	214,196	16.8%
5th to 8th Grade	91,042	12.7%	4,556	11.8%	121,682	23.5%	217,280	17.1%
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	527,757	73.8%	6,572	17.0%	85,042	16.4%	619,371	48.7%
High School Graduate	*	*	10,253	26.5%	109,774	21.2%	120,027	9.4%
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	1,705	4.4%	9,797	1.9%	11,502	0.9%
Some College or Associate's Degree	*	*	6,024	15.6%	44,311	8.6%	50,335	4.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	4,358	11.3%	34,612	6.7%	38,970	3.1%
Total	**715,326**	**100%**	**38,619**	**100%**	**517,736**	**100%**	**1,271,681**	**100%**

Appendix C: Comparative Data

This appendix presents comparative data on individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas. A comparative analysis was conducted by evaluating data from current and previous reports. The data in the following tables serves as a guide for understanding the significant growth of the population in need of AEL. Tables 35-38 present the numbers of individuals eligible for AEL services in Texas by nativity, fluency, and educational attainment. Data is provided for everyone who is at least 16 years old and for individuals between 16 and 64 years old. Finally, each table includes calculations corresponding to percent change.

Comparison of Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Nativity, Fluency, and Educational Attainment (2018 and 2024)

Table 35: Comparison of Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Age, Fluency, and Educational Attainment (2018 and 2024)

Educational Attainment	English Fluent					
	2018 Report		2024 Report		Percent Change	Percent Change
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	266,197	177,318	360,752	263,999	35.5%	48.9%
5th to 8th Grade	497,444	352,001	402,873	281,223	-19.0%	-20.1%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	2,243,639	1,996,169	2,197,830	1,967,302	-2.0%	-1.4%
High School Graduates	*	*	*	*	*	*
GED or High School Equivalency	*	*	*	*	*	*
Some Colleges or Associate's Degree	*	*	*	*	*	*
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total	**3,007,280**	**2,525,488**	**2,961,455**	**2,512,524**	**-1.5%**	**0.0%**

Table 36: Comparison of Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Age, Nativity (Native Born), Fluency, and Educational Attainment (2018 and 2024)

Educational Attainment	Not English Fluent, Native Born					
	2018 Report		2024 Report		Percent Change	Percent Change
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	34,582	11,292	26,647	12,203	-22.9%	8.1%
5th to 8th Grade	31,853	19,259	26,308	15,833	-17.4%	-17.8%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	33,272	28,846	32,131	28,951	-3.4%	0.4%
High School Graduates	28,639	25,417	39,144	34,720	36.7%	36.6%
GED or High School Equivalency	5,554	4,673	7,764	6,500	39.8%	39.1%
Some Colleges or Associate's Degree	21,108	18,881	29,708	26,175	40.7%	38.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12,439	10,500	17,629	14,874	41.7%	41.7%
Total	**167,447**	**118,868**	**179,331**	**139,256**	**7.1%**	**17.2%**

Table 37: Comparison of Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Age, Nativity (Foreign Born), Fluency, and Educational Attainment (2018 and 2024)

Educational Attainment	Not English Fluent, Foreign Born					
	2018 Report		2024 Report		Percent Change	Percent Change
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	309,175	206,710	319,167	211,906	3.2%	2.5%
5th to 8th Grade	478,904	412,249	388,328	313,891	-18.9%	-23.9%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	323,520	301,842	293,866	260,763	-9.2%	-13.6%
High School Graduates	292,835	268,254	297,015	263,735	1.4%	-1.7%
GED or High School Equivalency	32,773	28,480	35,688	27,576	8.9%	-3.2%
Some Colleges or Associate's Degree	118,305	105,733	122,224	102,815	3.3%	-2.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	77,361	64,042	103,041	85,007	33.2%	32.7%
Total	**1,632,873**	**1,387,310**	**1,559,329**	**1,265,693**	**-4.5%**	**-8.8%**

Table 10: Comparison of Individuals Eligible for AEL Services in Texas by Age and Educational Attainment (2018 and 2024)

Educational Attainment	Total					
	2018 Report		2024 Report		Percent Change	Percent Change
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	609,954	395,320	706,566	488,108	15.8%	23.5%
5th to 8th Grade	1,008,201	783,509	817,509	610,947	-18.9%	-22.0%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	2,600,431	2,326,857	2,523,827	2,257,016	-2.9%	-3.0%
High School Graduates	321,474	293,671	336,159	298,455	4.6%	1.6%
GED or High School Equivalency	38,327	33,153	43,452	34,076	13.4%	2.8%
Some Colleges or Associate's Degree	139,413	124,614	151,932	128,990	9.0%	3.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	89,800	74,542	120,670	99,881	34.4%	34.0%
Total	**4,807,600**	**4,031,666**	**4,700,115**	**3,917,473**	**-2.2%**	**-2.8%**

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Texas Workforce Investment Council

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