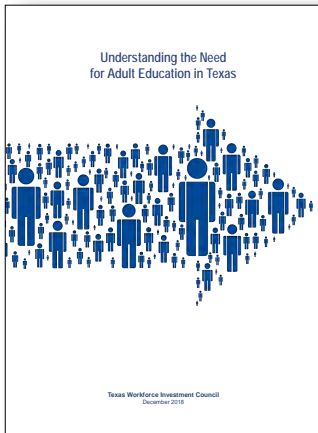


Understanding the Need for Adult Education in Texas

December 2018



The Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) prepared this report as an update to *Identifying the Current and Future Population in Need of Adult Education* published in March 2010. The report details the demographic characteristics of individuals in need of adult education in Texas. Between April 2018 and September 2018, the Council worked with the Office of the State Demographer to conduct further analyses of the current population in need of adult education services, a more detailed estimate of the future need for services based on projections for the Texas population, and the geographic dispersion of need in Texas.

Adult education programs generally emphasize basic skills in reading, writing, math, and English language competency to prepare adults for jobs or further academic instruction. Individuals most in need of services or hardest to serve, including those with multiple barriers to educational enhancement, are considered eligible. The Council's definition of adult education is determined by Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In this report, individuals who are not enrolled in secondary school, and who are at least 16 years old, are eligible for adult education services if they have not earned a high school diploma (GED or high school equivalency) or are unable to speak, read, or write English.

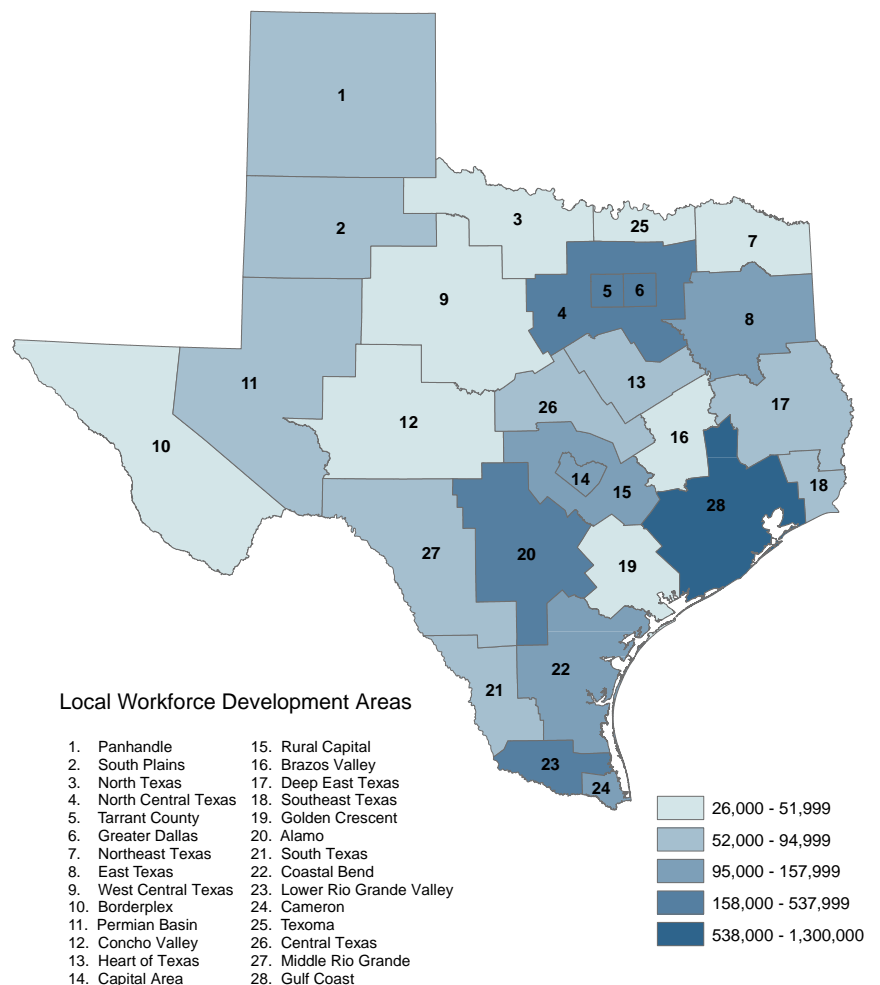
Current Population in Need of Adult Education

Texas' population in need of adult education has increased since the previous report by nearly one million people. Of the 16,837,377 individuals in Texas who are at least 16 years old, 29 percent, or 4,807,600 individuals, qualified for adult education 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 thought of as prime working age, between the ages of 16 and 64, 24 percent, or 4,031,666 individuals, qualified for adult education services. Other findings in the report include the following:

- Of the 4,807,600 individuals who qualify for adult education services, 3,007,280, or 63 percent, are English fluent and have less than a high school level of education.
- Approximately 37 percent of Texans eligible for adult education services are unable to speak English.
- Individuals who are English fluent but only have a fifth to eighth or ninth to twelfth grade education have the greatest need for adult education services.

To assist workforce system stakeholders in coordinating program planning and delivery, the Council selected the 28 local workforce development areas (LWDAs) as the sub-state regions that the Office of the State Demographer would use to analyze the geographic distribution of the current and projected populations in need of adult education services. Gulf Coast, Greater Dallas, North Central, and Alamo have the highest total percentages of individuals eligible for adult education services in Texas.

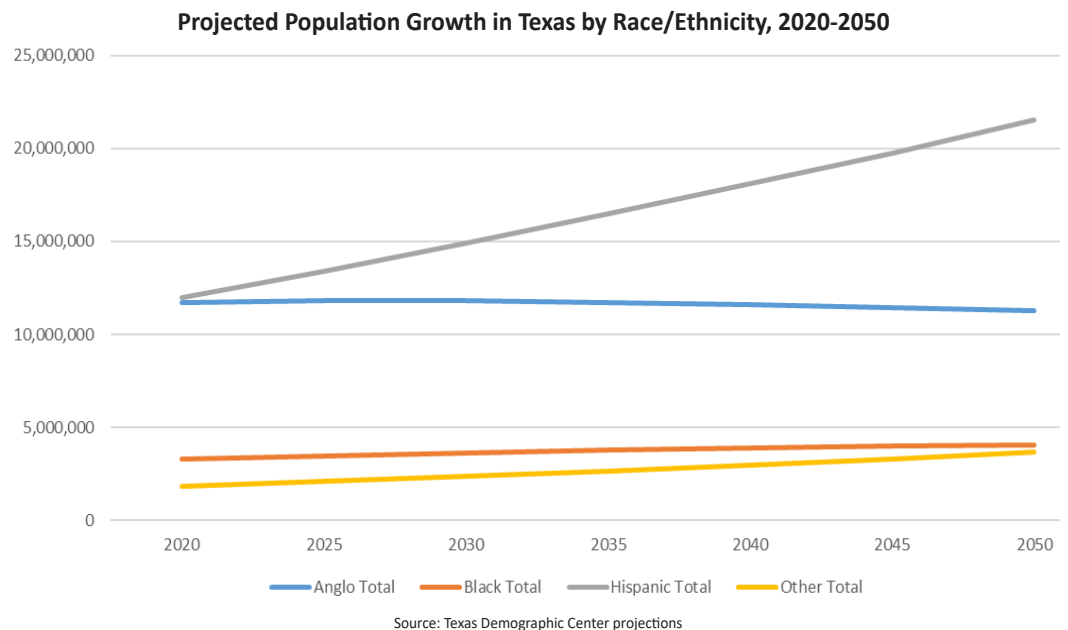
Individuals Eligible for Adult Education Services by LWDA, 2017



Sources: Texas Demographic Center and U.S. Census Bureau

Projected Population in Need of Adult Education

Between 2020 and 2050, the population of Texas is projected to grow by 41 percent. As the state's population changes, the number of individuals who qualify for adult education services will also change. By 2050, current and projected population trends indicate that 10,017,935 Texans will be eligible for adult education services. This is an 80 percent increase from 2020. Additionally, Hispanics will represent an increasingly larger percentage of the total individuals who qualify for adult education in the future, increasing from 2,215,375 in 2020 to 7,763,968 in 2050. Three population trends—high school graduation, English fluency, and nativity—will be important indicators of the future numbers of individuals who will qualify for adult education services.



Changes in the Need for Adult Education Since 2010

Since *Identifying the Current and Future Population in Need of Adult Education* was published in 2010, the Texas population in need of adult education grew by close to one million people—from 3,871,173 in 2010 to 4,807,600 in 2018. A comparative analysis was conducted by evaluating data from current and previous reports. The following table highlights the numbers of individuals eligible for adult education services in Texas in 2010 and 2018. Data are presented by age and educational attainment, and the percent change since 2010 is calculated for each category.

Comparison of Individuals Eligible for Adult Education Services in Texas by Age and Educational Attainment (2010 and 2018)

Educational Attainment	Total					
	2010 Report		2018 Report		Percent Change	Percent Change
	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64	Age 16+	16-64
0 to 4th Grade	541,128	348,952	609,954	395,320	12.72%	13.29%
5th to 8th Grade	1,081,208	835,997	1,008,201	783,509	-6.75%	-6.28%
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	1,780,908	1,484,667	2,600,431	2,326,857	46.02%	56.73%
High School Graduate	267,681	252,278	321,474	293,671	20.10%	16.41%
GED or High School Equivalency	34,613	31,627	38,327	33,153	10.73%	4.82%
Some College to 2-yr Degree	96,886	90,032	139,413	124,614	43.89%	38.41%
Bachelor's Degree and Higher	68,749	60,477	89,800	74,542	30.62%	23.26%
Total	3,871,173	3,104,030	4,807,600	4,031,667	24.19%	29.88%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*

The Texas Workforce Investment Council was created in 1993 by the 73rd Texas Legislature. As an advisory body to the Governor and the legislature, the development of an integrated strategic plan for the workforce system is one of the Council's primary responsibilities. Because all Texans are part of the critical pool of potential employees that is and will be required by Texas employers, *The Texas Workforce System Strategic Plan FY 2016–FY 2023* includes action plans targeted for increased employment outcomes for populations in need of adult education. Detailed demographic analyses and maps are available at <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/twic>.