LITERACY TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023
AUGUST 1 & 2 LITERACYTEXAS.ORG/CONFERENCE

Beyond the AEL Tradition: Where Do We Go From Here?

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What's In It for Them? (outcomes)

- **Unleashed AEL "Case Makers" for the Literacy Ecosystem**
- **Optimized mindsets regarding the digital evolution in AEL**
- **Infused "techno-digital education" experiences for competitive digital equity**

Discussion: Reading. Is that all you do?

You are at a networking function.

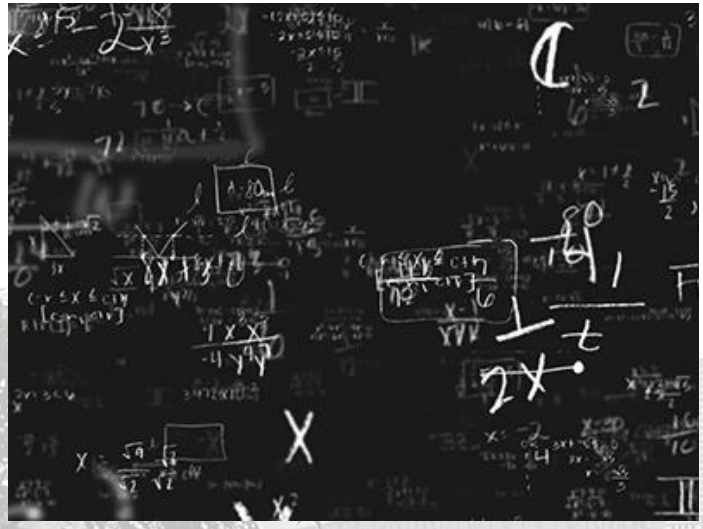
- *Hi, I'm Alex from Carbo-Hydrate, the carbonated water company. I'm in sales. What about you?*

- *I'm (say your name). I'm an adult literacy teacher.*

- *Oh, that's great. You teach people to read!*

HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

The General Perception of Literacy



1st Evolution of AEL Brand = Talent Pool Development

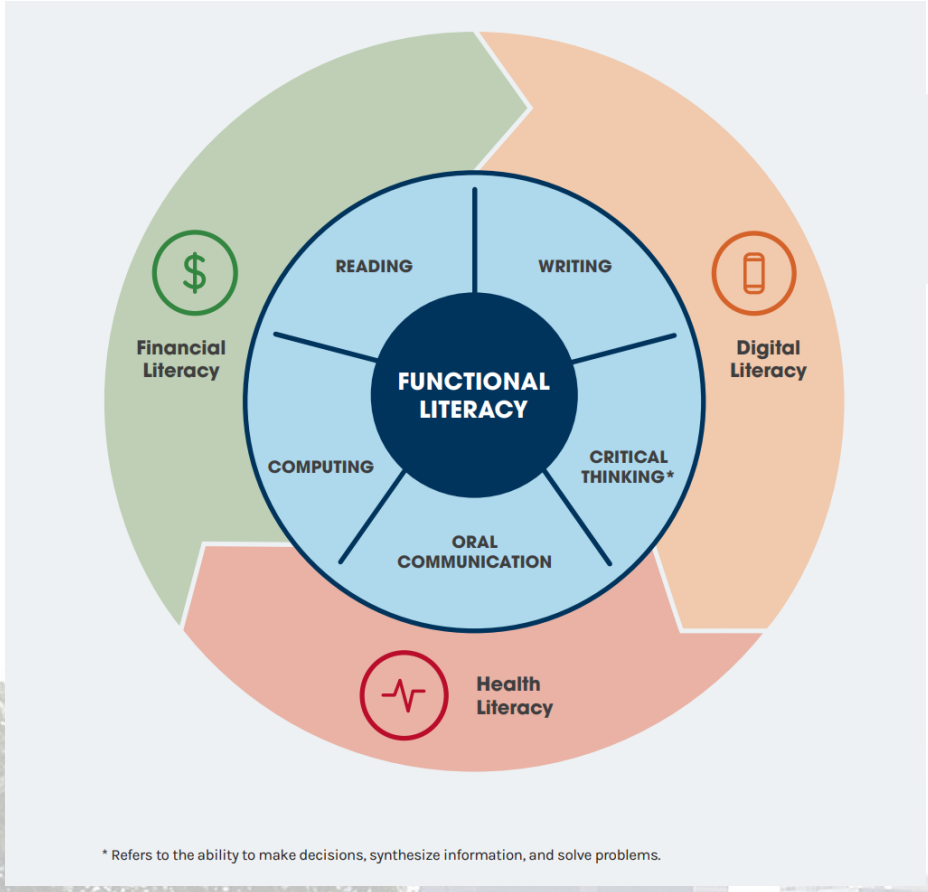
- A talent pool is a group of individuals with specific skills or qualifications that are in demand by employers.
- Having a strong talent pool is important for businesses because it allows them to quickly fill open positions with qualified candidates.
- A strong talent pool can also help businesses to stay competitive by providing them with access to the latest skills and technologies.
- **"Products" of an adult literacy, higher ed, entrepreneurship, or job skills training program**

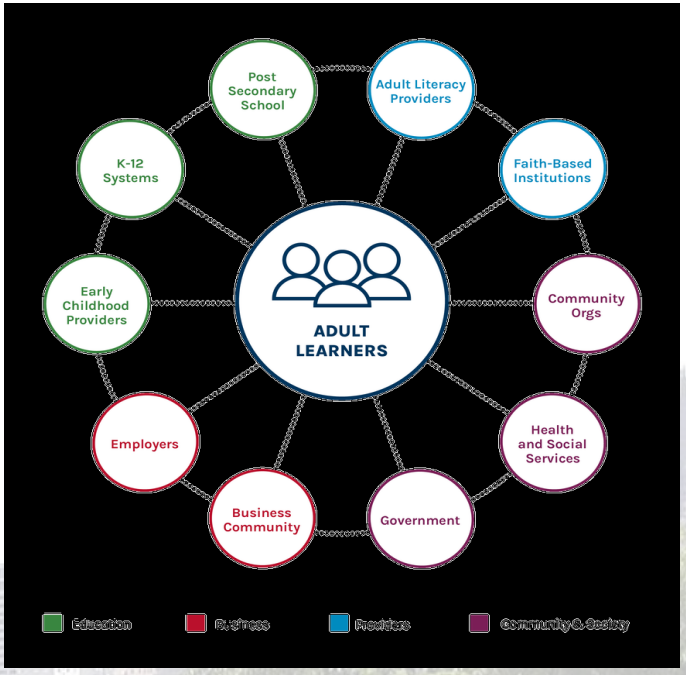
"I Develop Talent."

REFLECTION 1

- How will you respond the next time some one asks “What do you do?”

2nd Evolution of AEL Brand: AEL as a Literacy Ecosystem Influencer



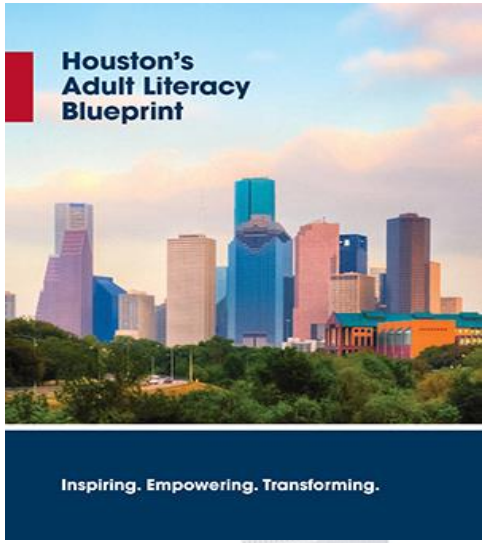


Research Based: The Blueprint

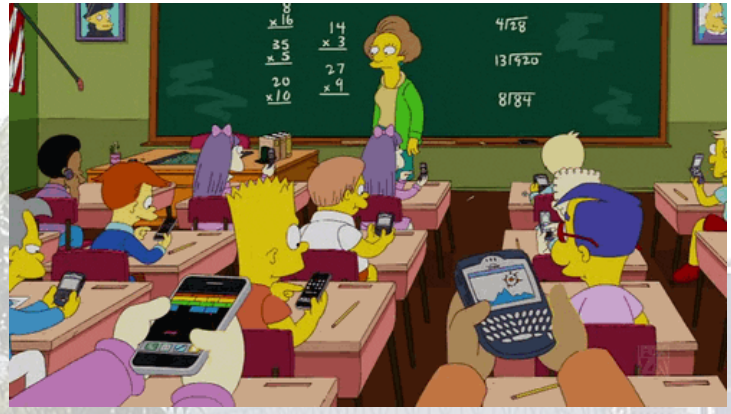
The Blueprint

http://houstontx.gov/adultliteracyblueprint/

- **City's and Nation's first Adult Literacy Blueprint in partnership with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation**
- **The 15-year strategic plan dedicated to advancing adult literacy in Houston**
- **Currently 1 in 3 adults in Harris County (Greater Houston Area) function at the lowest levels of literacy.**



No One in Adult Ed is "JUST" a/an (xyz) Instructor Anymore



AEL Unleashed

Every AEL Instructor is a Talent Pool Developer & a Digital Literacy Navigator

On the Job

"To get better job and employment opportunities, I need to have the skills to..."

- Apply for a job online
- Communicate via email
- Perform digital work tasks
- Draft a cover letter and resume
- Understand work safety manuals
- Navigate employee benefits

AEL Unleashed

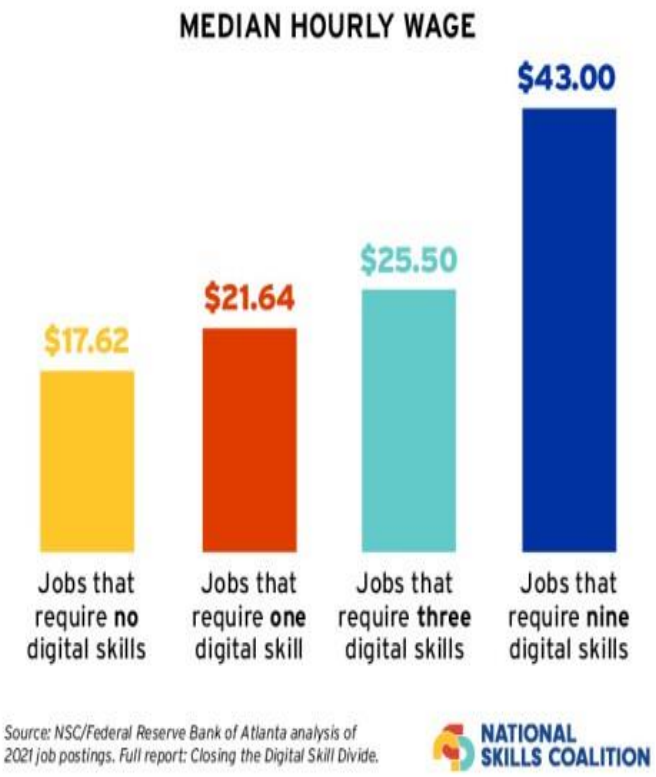
Digital Divide. Digital Equity. Digital Access. Digital Resilience.

NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION

https://nationalskillscoalition.org/

A record 92 percent of jobs now require definitely digital or likely digital skills, according to a new report from the National Skills Coalition.

"Closing the Digital Skills Divide: The Payoff for Workers, Business and the Economy"



https://nationalskillscoalition.org/resource/publications/closing-the-digital-skill-divide/

Foundational & Industry-specific Skills

Foundational / Digital Literacy Basics:

- typing and keyboarding
- using mobile applications
- using common software packages like Microsoft

*Northstar Digital Literacy
https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

*GCFLearnfree
https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/

Industry Specific

Industry Specific / Contextualized DL:

- specific platforms or software packages common to an industry
- automation and programming
- Note: DL is different for workers in the real estate industry and workers in the food service industry (integration).

Digital Resilience / Retention / Progress

"This is about being nimble enough to respond as your job changes over time, and your career evolves over time, and as the kind of digital skills you need change over time… a lot of digital upskilling [reskilling] involves building bridges from the skills people have to the skills they need or will need in the future."

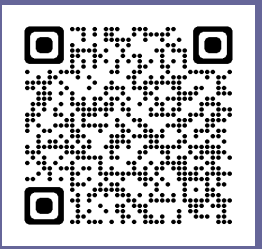
Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, NSC senior fellow and an author of *"Closing the Digital Skills Divide: The Payoff for Workers, Business and the Economy"*

REFLECTION 2

Go back to Reflection 1. Add the following:

- **3 skills needed by your students / clients (aka Talent Pool).**
- **Match skills with functional literacy and 3 inner circle literacy domains**
- **Contextualize these answers with specific digital literacy training and experiences you can add to your curriculum or program**

Seven Strategic Blueprint Goals



GOAL 1 AWARENESS & ACTION	**GOAL 2** A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM
GOAL 3 MULTI-GENERATIONAL LEARNING	**GOAL 4** WORKFORCE SKILLS & OPPORTUNITIES
GOAL 5 DIGITAL RESOURCES & SKILLS	**GOAL 6** A COMMON DATA SYSTEM & PRACTICES

GOAL 7
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES FOR PROGRESS

GOAL 5: Digital Resources and Skills

Strategy 1

Advocate for policy and legislation in support of quality internet access (e.g., broadband, hotspots).

Strategy 2

Expand access to technology and digital resources through sustainable partnerships with technology-related businesses, the Houston Public Library, the pre-K-12 school system, and the general public.

Strategy 3

Increase access to and enrollment in digital literacy and skill-building programs.

Strategy 4

Provide and promote professional learning opportunities for adult literacy providers to innovate and deliver virtual or hybrid programming.

Strategy 5

Cultivate sustainable partnerships and investments in innovation and acquisition of learning apps, digital tools, and online learning systems for adult learners.

GOAL 5: Digital Resources and Skills

Strategy 1

Advocate for policy and legislation in support of quality internet access (e.g., broadband, hotspots).

Texas Broadband Project: Digital Mapping

Texas Digital Opportunity Plan, which will help inform how the State develops policies and funds programs to promote broadband accessibility, affordability and adoption throughout Texas.

Who?

ALL government agencies, nonprofits, experts, practitioners, funders, researchers, and community organizers. If your work helps people in your community access the internet, computers or digital skills training, or other information and resources, you should take part in this survey.

GOAL 5: Digital Resources and Skills

Strategy 1

Advocate for policy and legislation in support of quality internet access (e.g., broadband, hotspots).

NDIA
NATIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION ALLIANCE

NDIA Strategic Planning - Community Survey

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDIACommunity

GOAL 5: Digital Resources and Skills

Strategy 2

Expand access to technology and digital resources through sustainable partnerships with technology-related businesses, the Houston Public Library, the pre-K-12 school system, and the general public.

- *Bridge Digital Academy – Literacy Minnesota & Northstar Digital Literacy*
- *Digital Equity Project – COH ARPA Project & Houston Public LIbrary*
- *Xprize Rapid Reskilling Challenge – Houston*
- *Digital Health: Mental Health Apps – Harvard University*

GOAL 5: Digital Resources and Skills

Strategy 5

Cultivate sustainable partnerships and investments in innovation and acquisition of learning apps, digital tools, and online learning systems for adult learners.

REFLECTION 3

- Which Digital Literacy Strategies from the Blueprint do you already engage in?
- Which strategy / strategies will you engage in?
- Write 1 way you will engage with a Goal 5 strategy.

Embracing a Digitally Driven Experience

- **Materials:** Worksite fundamentals plus site-specific, collaboratively developed supplements and experiences (the worksite is a learning lab)
- **Online Learning Platforms**: Use online learning platforms to deliver industry relevant content and facilitate collaboration for relative tasks
- **Interactive Media**: Use interactive media, such as videos and simulations, to support on the job thinking and problem solving skills
- **Virtual Reality Tools**: Use virtual reality tools to provide immersive learning experiences and team collaborations

Photo: Anson Green, UpWard Academy, Tyson Foods

“OG” English@Work, ATX 2005-2014

- Teaching English-language skills by contextualizing and customizing them and providing them in the workplace.
- Students made larger gains on various literacy measures more quickly than these more traditional approaches.
- Students also indicated that they felt more motivated to learn in a cohort of their peers that was situated within their workplace.
- Merged with and became part of the larger Literacy Coalition of Central Texas (LCCT) in January 2014.

LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

DART

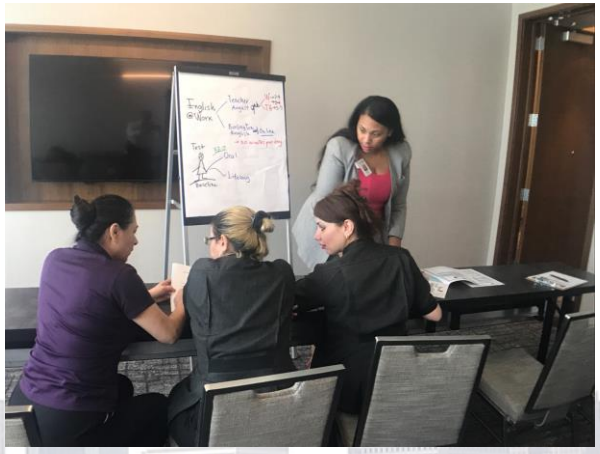
Introducing DART Free ELL Digital Literacy Curriculum! | LINCS Community | Adult Education and Literacy | U.S. Department of Education

- DART Digital Literacy Curriculum for Low Level ESL Curriculum, written by Dr.Glenda Rose and Dr. Denise Guckert.

- Tyson A-Ok To Access curriculum enhanced by cohort of adult education pilotprojects working in Tyson plants across the country.

Worksites are Learning Labs

- ***Industry Standards***
- ***Industry Knowledge***
- ***Industry Marketing***
- ***Industry Image & Brand***
- ***The Culture***



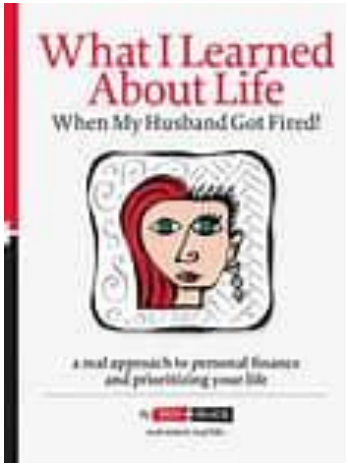
Adult Literacy Partners of Houston
XPRIZE AEL App Winners 2019

- *EastSide University*
- *Memorial Assistance Ministries*
- *Literacy Advance*
- *Community Family Centers*
- *Additional providers plus community*

Xprize Rapid Reskilling

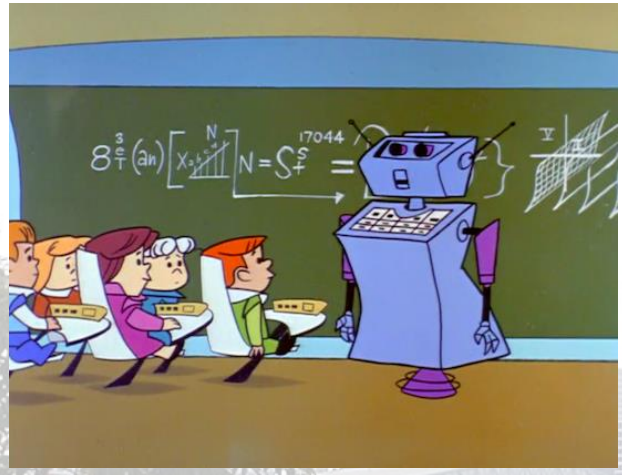
isotonik
Train Fast • Skill Up • Get Employed

“Techno-Digital EduTainment”
The Food Bank & Adult Literacy?



RED + BLACK

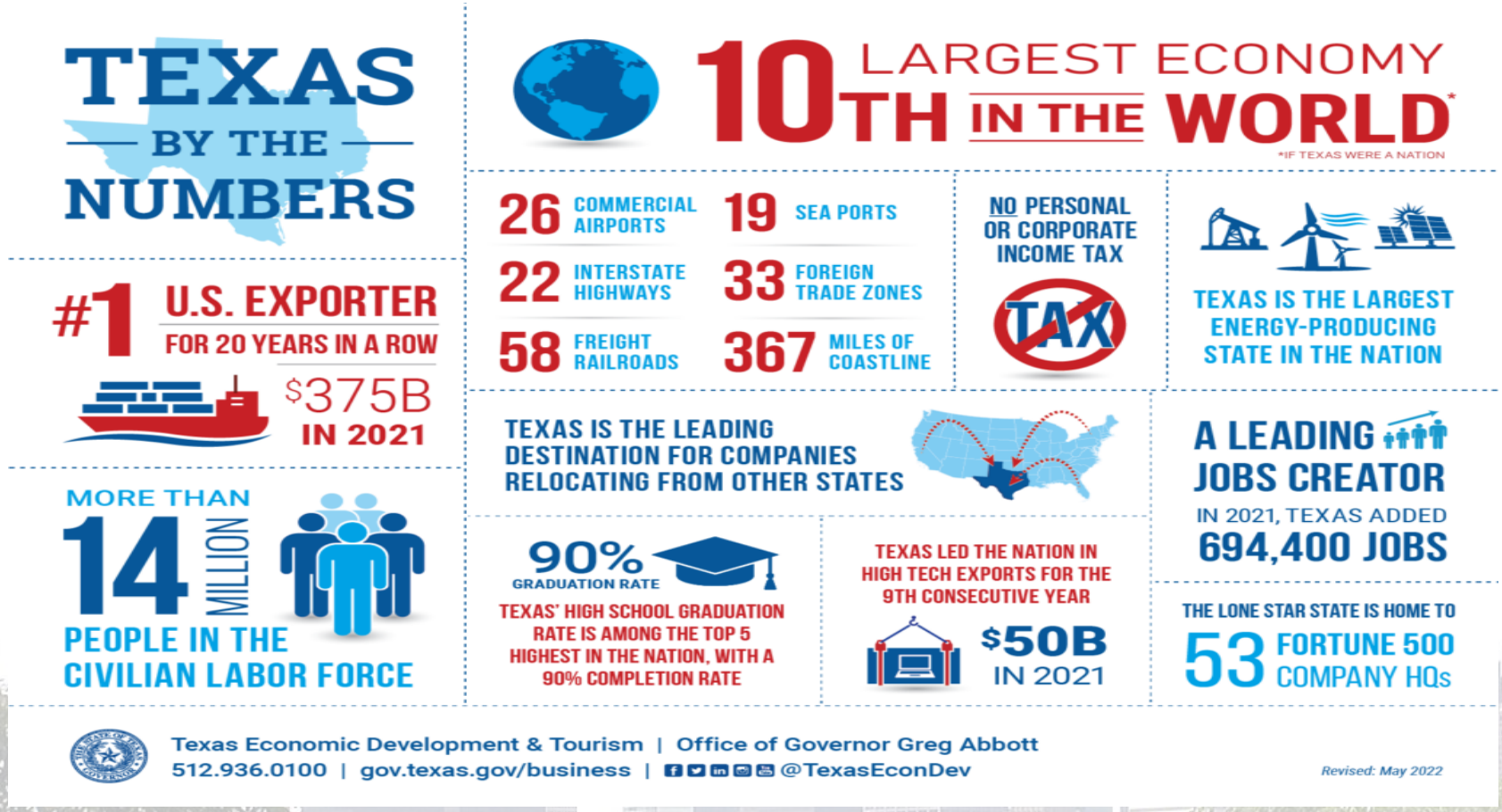
real sisters. real life.®



Movies, "mechanical tabulating machines" and teachers instructing by videophone were the classroom of tomorrow. Each child sits in front of a console which has a screen displaying equations, multiple colored buttons and what looks like maybe a video camera or microphone mounted on the top-center of the desk.

Arthur Radebaugh's classic futuristic comic strip "Closer Than We Think" (1958-63)

An "Unleashed" Instruction Mindset is More Important Than Ever for Texas AEL Providers



Source: [Texas Economic Development & Tourism, Office of the Governor]

Equity, Access, and Resilience depends on the innovative quality of instruction provided.

If you are worried about being replaced by technology, don't. AI and "the machines" are not going to replace you. The person who knows how to use AI and work the machines will. Jobs are evolving, and so must the talent pool in line to fill the vacancies.

COABE DIGITAL LITERACY PANEL
April 2023

The shift towards a digitally driven adult literacy focus is not "forgetting" basic literacy. Becoming digital literacy navigators developing the talent pool insures that literacy will remain relevant as an influencer of our collective future.

AEL Unleashed

Reflection 4: How will you "unleash" digitally driven experiences in your classroom or program???

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