



May 11, 2026

To: House Public Education Committee
Re: State of Education Interim Charge

Chairman Buckley, Vice Chair Bernal, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment about the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in public education in Texas. On behalf of the Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC), a non-partisan network of business leaders, we believe that Texas must modernize its education systems to prepare students for an economy where AI is ubiquitous. To maintain Texas's global competitiveness and ensure workforce resiliency, it is critical that young Texans are equipped to maximize an AI-driven economy.

Artificial intelligence and automation advancements are fundamentally changing the global workforce, and this will alter the nature of work in nearly every Texas industry. While there is uncertainty about the pace of change and how many jobs will be eliminated versus redesigned, it is clear that almost all jobs will require new skills. The attached policy paper, ***The AI Frontier: Future-Proofing the Texas Workforce for Global Competitiveness***, provides additional details about the way AI and advanced automation are impacting the Texas economy. AI is driving demand for new roles and emphasizing the need for uniquely human skill sets. Demand for AI fluency, the ability to use and manage AI tools appropriately, has grown faster than any other skill in U.S. job postings over the past two years.¹ TWC analysis shows that durable skills such as creativity, problem solving, and interpersonal communication are becoming more valuable as routine tasks are automated.² In other words, AI and automation is not replacing the need for people—it is changing what people need to be able to do and Texas must ensure that our education systems are preparing students for success in this rapidly changing environment.

Texas should embrace the use of AI in our PK-12 education system but do so in a safe and transparent way by establishing statewide guardrails related to instructional use, student-facing use, academic integrity, data privacy, procurement standards, and protections against bias. Further, TBLC urges the legislature to modernize the Texas PK-12 system to ensure that

¹ McKinsey Global Institute Report (2025). Agents, Robots, and Us: Skill Partnerships in the Age of AI.
<https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/agents-robots-and-us-skill-partnerships-in-the-age-of-ai>

² Texas Workforce Commission (2024). AI Impact on the Texas Economy.
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/sites/default/files/enterprise/docs/ai-impact-on-the-texas-economy-topic-paper-accessible-twc.pdf>

students graduate with the skills needed in an AI driven economy. We encourage consideration of the following recommendations:

- 1) **Embed digital fluency early** – PK-12 students should not only learn foundational skills like reading and math, but develop familiarity with emerging technologies, data interpretation and validation, and problem-solving in hybrid human-AI environments. **Texas Education, Knowledge, and Skills (TEKS)** standards should be updated to incorporate this learning at developmentally appropriate levels and sequencing in foundational courses as well as updating career and technical education (CTE) learning standards to integrate the use of AI skills that reflect industry practices.
- 2) **Support for teacher professional development** – The state should support practical, job-embedded AI training for educators to ensure they are equipped to teach the AI skills that students need to be successful. Training should also help teachers evaluate AI outputs, protect student data, identify bias, support academic integrity, and enable the use of AI to enhance rigorous instruction.
- 3) **Emphasize strengthening “uniquely human skills”** – Identify and implement effective models to improve how we teach durable skills in the PK-12 system as skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and complex communications are more likely to provide resiliency in the workforce of the future.
- 4) **Expand career exploration opportunities and strengthen advising support** – Starting in middle school, strengthen advising to help students and their families to make informed decisions about career pathways and utilize tools like MyTexasFuture to understand projected workforce needs in light of evolving AI and automation advancements.

AI and advanced technologies represent one of the most significant economic transformations in generations. With the right guardrails, AI can support excellent teaching and expand student opportunity. By aligning our PK-12 system with the AI fluency and durable skills employers demand, Texas can deepen its talent pipeline and sustain a high-growth economy.

Respectfully,

Kelle Kieschnick

Vice President of Policy, TBLC

kkieschnick@txblc.org