



Business Advisory Councils Highlight Report 2020-2021

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Ohio's strategic plan for education, [Each Child, Our Future](#), recognizes the importance of giving students access to practical, real-world work settings, so they can gain valuable exposure to the skills and knowledge necessary for their future careers goals. When districts and schools connect with local business and industry partners, students can participate in innovative approaches to learning that strengthen the linkages between academics and preparation for future success and career readiness. [Ohio law](#) supports these connections by requiring each school district and educational service center to have a Business Advisory Council. Business Advisory Councils are required by law to submit annual plans outlining strategies on educating students on economic job trends.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Recognizing the importance of preparing students with skills needed in the changing economic climate, the Ohio Department of Education understands the need to strengthen business and education partnerships. These strategic partnerships represented through Business Advisory Councils rose to the challenges presented by COVID-19. Business Advisory Councils were agile and adapted new methods for continuing this work. Councils held meetings virtually, implemented virtual industry tours, career exploration forums and provided remote work-based learning experiences.

OHIO BUSINESS EDUCATION LEADER AWARDS FOR EXCELLENT BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

To lift up the outstanding work of Business Advisory Councils, the Department announced the "Ohio Business Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils." This award was developed in partnership with the [Ohio Chamber of Commerce](#), [National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio](#), [Ohio Farm Bureau](#), [Ohio Manufacturers' Association](#), [Ohio Excels](#), [Ohio Restaurant Association](#) and [Ohio Council of Retail Merchants](#).

These application-based awards recognized recipients according to the three quality practices Business Advisory Councils operate by.

- **Develop Professional skill for future careers** – Successful councils work together to delineate key professional skills that will be needed for the future job market. They develop curriculum that instills these skills while advising on changes in the economy and job market.
- **Build Partnerships** – Successful councils develop working relationships among businesses, labor and education personnel.
- **Coordinate Experiences** – Successful councils create environments that allow students to demonstrate proficiency in critical professional and specialized skills that will aid in future employment.

2021 Business Advisory Council Award recipients

"Excellence in Developing Professional Skills for the Future" - Columbiana County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council

"Excellence in Coordinating Career Development Experiences" - Cincinnati Public Schools Business Advisory Council

"Excellence in Building Partnerships" - Columbiana County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council

2021 Four-Star Business Advisory Councils

Cincinnati Public Schools Business Advisory Council

Columbiana County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council

2021 Three-Star Business Advisory Councils

Building Bridges to Careers

Educational Service Center of Central Ohio

ESC of Northeast Ohio

Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative

Montgomery County Educational Service Center

Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center

Noble Local School District

North Point Educational Service Center

Piqua Business Advisory Council

Tri-County Educational Service Center

DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL SKILL FOR FUTURE CAREERS

Many of Ohio's Business Advisory Councils are implementing quality practices to develop students and expose them to various career paths. Of the 89 Business Advisory Council plans reviewed, 71% included initiatives to delineate professional skills as seen in figure 1. Business Advisory Councils reported advising districts on the needs of the local workforce, including advising on skills needed and actively providing career exploration for students to become aware of opportunities in the local job market. Business Advisory Councils throughout the state also provided hands-on professional development workshops, tours and camps to educators.

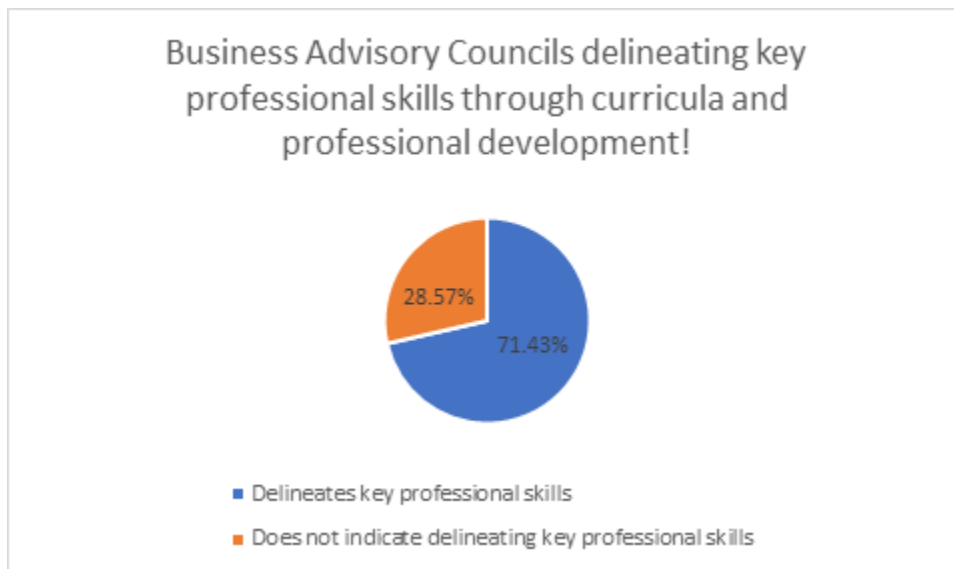


Figure 1

Notable examples:

- The Columbiana County Business Advisory Council held an Educator Summer Camp. This camp provided a five-day experience for 175 educators to visit 42 area businesses. Educators were able to integrate what they learned from the experiences into their classroom curricula to teach students professional skills.
- The Auglaize County Educational Service Center facilitates teacher tours that allow local teachers to explore and better understand opportunities available to students in Auglaize and Mercer counties.

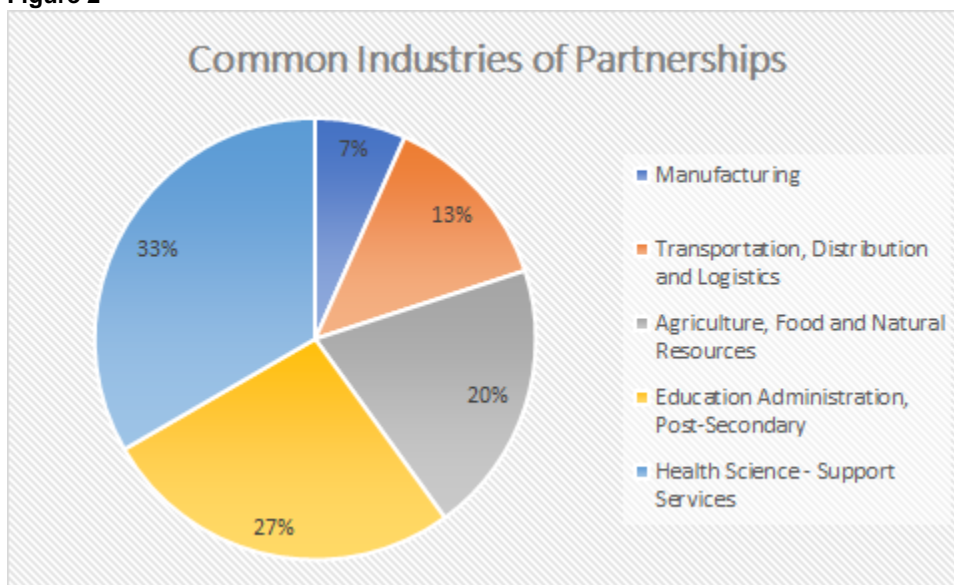
- Medina County Economic Development Corporation hosted an “Explore your future: Employment, Enlistment, Education Day,” online, along with an OhioMeansJobs virtual job fair.

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Business education partnerships are essential to preparing students for success. Exposure to different career pathways empowers students to be more knowledgeable about career choices for the future. Insights from these partnerships provide relevant information on how to align curriculum with the job market requirements. Partnerships also foster job shadowing opportunities and career mentorships to students.

Of plans submitted, 88.57% demonstrated collaborative relationships between business and education. These collaborations continue to grow and thrive to expose students to various industries in their communities. Figure 2 represents the most prevalent industries collaborating with Business Advisory Councils in Ohio, with the most partnerships taking place in the Health Science-Support Services industry.

Figure 2



Notable examples:

- Anthony Wayne Local School Business Advisory Council partnerships offer “Career Talks,” where small groups of students are matched with professionals who foster conversations on future careers.
- Athens City Schools Business Advisory Council pairs at-risk students with career network mentors who match students’ interests.
- Clermont County Educational Service Center coordinates on-the-job learning and mentorship experiences for all students.

Business Advisory Councils have been instrumental with building partnerships in various sectors. These partnerships provide pathways and hands-on experiential learning collaborations. To bridge the workforce skills gap, the Governor’s Office of Workforce transformation provided a grant opportunity to fund collaboration between businesses, education and training providers and other community leaders who were invested improving their regions’ workforces. The following Business Advisory Council partnerships received the Lieutenant Governor’s Industry-Sector Partnership Grant.

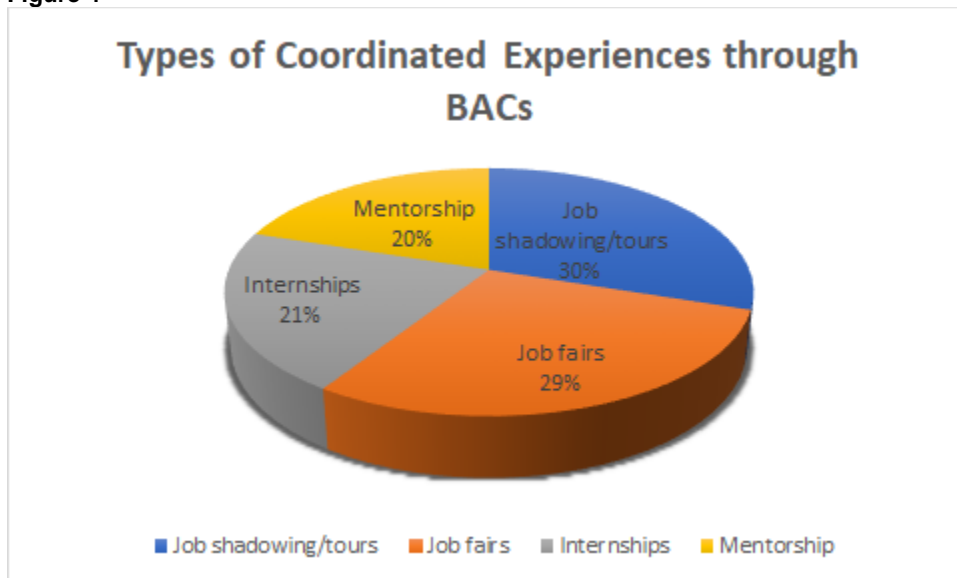
Partnership	Business Advisory Council
Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition	Building Bridges to careers
Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership	Fairfield County Educational Service Center
Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition	Mahoning Valley Educational Service Center
Raise the Bar Hancock County	Hancock County Educational Service Center
Workforce Partnership of Shelby County	Midwest Regional Educational Service Center

COORDINATE EXPERIENCES

Business Advisory Councils have been instrumental in providing opportunities to help students achieve graduation requirements while developing skills for the future. Students were able to access hands-on experiences in various career fields through internships and pre-apprenticeships. Several Business Advisory Council members have hired students upon graduation for skilled positions to fill employment gaps.

Figure 4 shows the enriching career exposure opportunities Business Advisory Councils have provided to students. These experiences give students a greater indication of the career paths they endeavor to pursue beyond High School.

Figure 4



Notable examples:

- Allen County Educational Service Center deployed job coaches in each high school. These job coaches place students in positions with local employers through a regional hiring effort called “MakerFest.”
- Alliance City Schools Business Advisory Council hosts Alliance High School College and Career Night, which allows students to apply for open jobs with local employers.
- Cincinnati Public Schools Business Advisory Council placed students in work-based learning opportunities throughout the district. Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to work two to three days a week at a local hospital.
- Perry Local Business Advisory Council provides opportunities for students to explore entrepreneurship, as students are able to launch an income producing company. Students also can earn credit for working with community partners while learning general construction, marketing, project planning and architecture while flipping homes.

ADDRESSING NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Some Business Advisory Councils provide opportunities targeted to addressing specific needs of students to remove barriers to future employment. These Business Advisory Councils coordinated experiences for students with necessary resources to help them acquire skills for employment and transitioning beyond high school.

Notable examples:

- The Licking County Business Advisory Council created intensive transition services for senior students with disabilities. These students are placed in job sites and have supports in place through mentorship and instructional supports.
- Green County Educational Service Center provides internships for seniors with disabilities through a program called Project Life.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Business Advisory Councils play a critical role in preparing students for future careers through career exploration and strong partnerships with the business community. Students are able to gain valuable work-based experiential learning.

As Business Advisory Councils work collaboratively with their local business communities, the need to strengthen partnerships, co-design curricula with input from the business community, provide relevant experiential learning through work-based learning, apprenticeship and internships will be critical to preparing students with skills to address labor needs.

As Business Advisory Councils expand, it is imperative they embrace strategies to support the whole child identified in *Each Child, Our Future*, including providing equitable opportunities for all students and fostering diverse collaborations among stakeholders.

The Department continues to support councils through new initiatives, such as the [High School Tech Internship](#) pilot and [RemotEDx](#) subgrant opportunities. The Department provides ongoing supports to strengthen Business Advisory Councils, including technical assistance, professional development and service as a thought partner in creating experiential career opportunities for students.