

Ohio's Business-Education Leaders Award for Excellent Business Advisory Councils – Quality Practices Overview

To build on the guidance offered in Ohio's Business Advisory Council Standards of Operation, the Ohio Department of Education, in collaboration with state-level industry partners, developed three quality practices to help guide the work of business advisory councils across the state.

QUALITY PRACTICES

1. Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers

Work together to delineate key professional skills that will be needed for the future job market. Develop curriculum that instills these skills while advising on changes in the economy and job market.

- a. The business advisory council plan and addendum:
 - i. Have identified goals and developed a comprehensive plan for how professional skills will be taught and reinforced in kindergarten through grade 12;
 - ii. Include recommendations on how the professional skills identified use career trend data and how they will be taught through existing curricula and/or the creation of new curricula included in the submitted plan;
 - iii. Include recommendations for classroom instruction, as well as classroom activities, events and programs;
 - iv. Address how existing programs will be sustained and new, innovative programs will be initiated and supported. Educator engagement, professional development, employer involvement in the classroom, and sequenced, year-long engagement are prioritized;
 - v. Identify how the council will study historical and future changes to the economy and job market and include how the council will work with governing boards of districts to address these changing needs; and
 - vi. Identify resources and partners, both regionally and/or nationally, that will inform the council.

To reach four stars: The plan and addendum show evidence of the integration of identified professional skills and career trend data is used across kindergarten through grade 12 and a priority. Educator engagement, professional development and employer involvement in the classroom are evident and processes for continually evaluating skills for currency are identified. The council actively works with governing boards of member districts to fully understand and address these changing needs.

2. Build Partnerships

Develop working relationships among businesses, labor and education personnel.

- a. The business advisory council plan and addendum:
 - i. Show evidence of the business advisory council developing and sustaining meaningful relationships among the business community, labor and workforce development organizations and education personnel in the areas it represents;
 - ii. Include a list of members who are representative of the local, regional and/or state business community and job market of the service area;

- iii. Identify how the council plays a key role in actively fostering new and current relationships across these communities, both through naming business advisory council members and providing opportunities to engage; and
- iv. Identify how meetings are run to ensure members respect the perspectives each brings to the council and actively look for ways to collaborate to advance each other's goals.

To reach four stars: The plan and addendum show evidence that because of the relationships the business advisory council has fostered, students are placed in work-based learning experiences, earning industry-recognized credentials, and earning the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal. The council hosts activities aimed at developing new relationships, which continue beyond the council. The membership of the council is representative of the local, regional and/or state business community and job market of the service area.

3. Coordinate Experiences

Create environments that allow students to demonstrate proficiency in critical professional and specialized skills that will aid in future employment.

- a. The business advisory council plan and addendum:
 - i. Outline how the council has helped students prepare and successfully enter the local workforce and support students in work-based learning opportunities;
 - ii. Identify how council members serve as mentors to students in the community and work to identify qualified mentors for all students;
 - iii. Explain how mentors work together to ensure students have planned and are prepared for successful career paths;
 - iv. Identify how council members work together to provide students experience in developing and applying specialized skills; and
 - v. Provide data that show more students are earning industry-recognized credentials, the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal and experiencing work-based learning as a result of the business advisory council's activities,

To reach four stars: The plan and addendum show evidence of annual growth in the numbers of students earning industry-recognized credentials and the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal. The council plays an important role in designing and implementing high-quality work-based learning and mentoring experiences for students. It is evident businesses are benefitting from the local talent these activities are helping produce.