

# 2025-2026 Plan Template

Ohio law requires all school districts to submit a business advisory council plan for each academic year. Each district must submit plans to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce via [OH|ID](https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal/) by September 30. The Department strongly recommends using this template to capture accurately the plans for the 2025-2026 academic school year. Councils may use the data template section to capture accomplishments of the 2024-2025 academic year. Feel free to add extra space to include initiatives that demonstrate implementation of each quality practice and add extra rows if necessary to the tables to include more than two initiatives for each quality practice.

1. **Name of business advisory council**:
2. **Identify the structure of the business advisory council** (school district, educational service center, joint vocational school district, or independent collaborative):
3. [**JobsOhio Region**](https://www.jobsohio.com/ohio-regional-network) **in which business advisory council operates**:

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| District | District Primary Contact and Role | Primary Contact Email | District Secondary Contact and Role | Secondary Contact Email |
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*Note: Please add rows as needed.*

1. **List business advisory council members** (business, higher education, and community partners, for example). List industries represented on the business advisory council based on [Ohio’s Top Jobs](https://topjobs.ohio.gov/top-jobs-list) classification. Include workforce boards, economic development, higher education, and community partners.

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| Business Advisory Council Member | Title | Name of Business | Industry |
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*Note: Please add rows as needed.*

## Schedule of Meetings

1. **Planning meetings for the 2025-2026 school year include**:

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| Quarter 1 Meeting: Month DD, YYYY | Quarter 2 Meeting: Month DD, YYYY |
| Quarter 3 Meeting: Month DD, YYYY | Quarter 4 Meeting: Month DD, YYYY |

Note: Some business advisory councils may choose to meet more frequently; please include any planned meetings in the schedule.

## Business Advisory Council Mission and Vision for the 2025-2026 School Year

Business advisory councils operate under [three quality practices](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Business-Advisory-Councils/BAC-Awards-%E2%80%93-Quality-Practices-Overview.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US): **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers**, **Build Partnerships**, and **Coordinate Experiences**.

### Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers

Describe how the business advisory council plans to **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers** for the 2025-2026 school year.

* Describe the plan, including initiatives, projects, or events. Include specific districts, number of students and grade bands impacted by initiative(s), and list all businesses involved.
* Use the template as a guide to list all initiatives, projects, and events used to develop professional skills for future careers (include business input in curriculum alignment with skills needed for in-demand professions, educator engagement and development, employers’ involvement in classrooms, etc.). Be sure to include existing programs and how they will be sustained and scaled.
* When describing initiatives, please connect them to previous initiatives so that the Department can see the progression of the business advisory council from year to year.

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| **Initiative 1** |
| Describe, in detail, the plan associated with implementing this quality practice. |
| List all participating school districts. What percentage of students within the business advisory council will be impacted by this initiative? |
| List all businesses and specify industries involved. What role does the business play in implementation? |
| How does this initiative help support or teach relevant, in-demand technical and professional skills for students and educators? |
| What skills gap or talent pipeline challenge does this initiative address to help your area/region? What data supports the identified skill gap or pipeline challenge? |
| How does this initiative impact students with disabilities? |

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| **Initiative 2** |
| Describe in detail the plan associated with implementing this quality practice. |
| List all participating school districts. What percentage of students within the business advisory council will be impacted by this initiative? |
| List all businesses and specify industries involved. What role does the business play in implementation? |
| How does this initiative help develop relevant, in-demand skills for students and educators? |
| What skills gap or talent pipeline challenge does this initiative address to help your area/region? What data supports the identified skill gap or pipeline challenge? |
| How does this initiative impact students with disabilities? |

*Note: Please add space/rows as needed.*

### Build Partnerships

Describe how the business advisory council plans to **Build Partnerships** for the 2025-2026 school year.

* Describe how the business advisory council will grow partnerships in alignment with in-demand careers in the region with representation from industry, workforce boards, port authority, OhioMeansJobs Centers, industry sector partnerships, higher education, etc.
* Use the template as a guide to list all initiatives, projects, and events used to build partnerships. Include information on partnership alignment, effectiveness, and initiatives spearheaded by these collaborations. Demonstrate cooperative efforts between districts and partners to benefit students and businesses.
* When describing initiatives, please connect them to previous initiatives so that the Department can see the progression of the business advisory council from year to year.

| **Initiative 1** |
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| Describe in detail how the business advisory council plans to strengthen and expand business and industry representation and partnerships. Describe how the council identifies new industry and business partners to address the talent pipeline business skills gap. |
| How will the council draw feedback from business and industry to inform decision-making? |
| What is the business advisory council’s plan to utilize feedback and guidance from business and industry partners to increase skills for students and educators? |
| How will identified industry partners co-develop relevant in-demand skills for students and educators? |
| How will partners impact career readiness for students with disabilities? |

| **Initiative 2** |
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| Describe in detail how the business advisory council plans to strengthen and expand business and industry representation. |
| What is the business advisory council plan to utilize insights from business and industry to increase skills for students and educators? |
| How will identified expanded industries develop relevant in-demand skills for students and educators? |
| How will partners impact career readiness for students with disabilities? |

*Note: Please add space/rows as needed.*

### Coordinate Experiences

Describe how the business advisory council plans to **Coordinate Experiences** for the 2025-2026 school year.

* Describe how the business advisory council will connect students to experiential learning to show competency of skills learned through hands-on demonstration and experiences (for example, internships, problem-based learning, state-approved [pre-apprenticeships](https://jfs.ohio.gov/job-services-and-unemployment/job-services/job-programs-and-services/apprentice-ohio/pre-apprenticeship), and registered state [apprenticeships](https://ohiolmi.com/Home/Dashboards/ApprenticeOhio_Dashboard)).
* When describing initiatives, please connect them to previous initiatives so that the Department can see the progression of the business advisory council from year to year.

| **Initiative 1** |
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| Describe in detail how the business advisory council plans to increase [Work-Based Learning](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Work-Based-Learning/Ohio-Work-Based-Learning.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) for students. |
| List all school districts and number of students that will benefit from this initiative. |
| List all businesses and industries that will be involved. |
| What role does business play in planning and implementation? |

| **Initiative 2** |
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| Describe in detail how the business advisory council plans to increase [Work-Based Learning](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Work-Based-Learning/Ohio-Work-Based-Learning.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) for students. |
| List all school districts that will benefit from this initiative. |
| List all businesses and industries that will be involved. |
| What role does business play in implementation? |

*Note: Please add space/rows as needed.*

# Ohio Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils Overview

The Ohio Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils recognize educators, business partners, staff, schools, educational service centers, joint vocational school districts, and communities who come together to create dynamic, career-focused learning environments for students.

The awards recognize business advisory councils that demonstrate excellence in ensuring Ohio students are prepared for successful career paths, including college, industry credentials, apprenticeships, military enlistment, or any combination of these. Business advisory councils that choose to pursue this recognition will be considered for awards of excellence and star ratings.

Councils are encouraged to submit the award addendum and a link to the joint statement for the 2025-2026 school year to be considered as a high-performing council for the Business-Education Leader Award for Excellent Business Advisory Councils.

### Selection Criteria

* **Enrollment Eligibility:** Business advisory councils must submit their annual plans, joint statement, and required addendum using the approved template from the Department’s Microsoft Forms by **September 30, 2025.**
* **Data Considerations:** Data metrics may include, but are not limited to, trend data on previous school-year graduation cohorts earning the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal, completing work-based learning, and earning industry-recognized credentials.
* **Conditional Selection:** The award is subject to the Department’s review of the accuracy of the business advisory council’s submission. The award review committee will consist of Department staff and business and education leaders.

### AWARDS

In addition to a star rating, state business and education leaders will select one or more councils from the following award categories based on the submission materials provided:

* Excellence in Developing Professional Skills for Future Careers
* Excellence in Building Partnerships
* Excellence in Coordinating Experiences

### Quality Practices

The business advisory council award is based on the implementation of the following quality practices. During the recognition year, the business advisory council, in consultation with the local governing board, should:

1. **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers** – Work together to define key professional skills needed for the future job market. Develop a curriculum that instills these skills while advising on changes in the economy and job market.
2. **Build Partnerships** – Develop and increase collaborative relationships among businesses, labor, and education personnel. Partnerships should align with in-demand industries in the region.
3. **Coordinate Experiences** – Create environments that allow students to demonstrate proficiency in critical professional and specialized skills that will aid in future employment.

In addition to the addendum to the business advisory council plan, the following information is requested for the submitting organization to qualify:

* A link to the previous year’s joint statement or a copy of the joint statement.
* Local data measuring the implementation of the quality practices for the prior school year. Data may be obtained from the school counselor, administration, career navigators, work-based learning tracker, data identified by district, or other sources.
* If the business advisory council represents multiple school districts, specify initiatives and objectives for each district, and provide data for each district served.
* Responses to the following questions:

1. How has your business advisory council helped students prepare and successfully enter the local workforce?
   1. Include any curriculum changes influenced by your business advisory council (state-specific initiatives, outcomes, and data).
   2. Include how your business advisory council is preparing students with both technical and professional skills needed to address local attainment and talent pipeline needs.
   3. How has your business advisory council and its members supported students in work-based learning (i.e., internships, apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships) opportunities? (*NOTE: Career exploration activities such as job shadowing, mock interviews, and mentoring should not be included in data.*)
   4. What process has been established by your business advisory council to approve work-based learning in compliance with the [College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness measure](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Data/Report-Card-Resources/Traditional-Report-Cards/Traditional-CCWMR-Technical-Document.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) ([ORC3302.03](https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-section-3302.03)) for the district report card?
   5. What are some examples of high-quality, [work-based learning](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Work-Based-Learning) supported by your business advisory council? How many of your business partners have accepted students into work-based learning experiences?
   6. How has work-based learning benefited students and employers?
   7. What percentage of students have earned an in-demand, [Industry-Recognized Credential](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Contacts-and-Resources/Industry-Recognized-Credentials/Industry-Recognized-Credentials-by-Career-Field) because of the work-based learning experience with employers within your business advisory council?
2. How has your business advisory council supported mentorship programs and/or provided networking opportunities for students and professionals on a regular basis?
3. What career activities have been influenced by your business advisory council? Include districts involved and data on students involved in each activity.
4. What professional development opportunities are available through your business advisory council for teachers? Include teacher bootcamps, externships, tours, and other opportunities.
5. What major decisions has your business advisory council influenced for its member school districts, and how have decisions impacted students, educators, and curriculum?
6. How are the members of your business advisory council representative of the job market in the area you serve? Specify industries represented on your business advisory council reflective of in-demand occupations in the area.
7. How is your business advisory council collecting, implementing, and responding to feedback and industry trends in the region in which it operates? Include samples of feedback (business, educator, and student).
8. What barriers has your business advisory council encountered in implementing these quality practices?
   1. How has your business advisory council overcome these barriers or what needs to occur to overcome these barriers?
9. What additional information would you like to share about how your business advisory council develops professional skills for future careers? Please provide any details on how the work of the business advisory council is shared within the community.
10. What additional information would you like to share on how your business advisory council works collaboratively on initiatives to build partnerships and enhance experiences for students?
11. What additional information would you like to share about how career readiness experiences are coordinated? How have these experiences benefited students and employers?
12. Which business partner has been the most influential on your business advisory council and why?

Data templates should be used to track data reflective of accomplishments over the 2025-2026 academic year.

**Quality Practice I: Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers**

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| **Career Awareness/Exploration** | **Grades Impacted** | **Number of Students** | **Districts Impacted** |
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| **Professional Development** | **Offerings (industry tours, teacher bootcamp, etc.)** | **Number of Educators** | **Districts Impacted** |
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**Quality Practice II: Build Partnerships**

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| **Partnerships Represented** | **Industry** | **What initiatives have they contributed to through the business advisory council?** |
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|  |  | How many partners have hired students? |
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**Quality Practice III: Coordinate Experiences**

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| **Internships/Industry** | **Districts** | **Percentage of Students Placed** | **Paid or Unpaid** |
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| **Registered** [**Pre-apprenticeships**](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fjfs.ohio.gov%2Fstatic%2FApprentice%2Fxls%2FPre-Apprenticeship-Roster.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) | **Districts** | **Percentage of Students Placed** | **Paid or Unpaid** |
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| [**Registered Apprenticeships**](https://ohiolmi.com/Home/Dashboards/ApprenticeOhio_Dashboard) | **Districts** | **Percentage of Students Placed** | **Paid or Unpaid** |
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| **District** | **Percentage of Students with** [**Student Success Plans**](https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Career-Advising-Policy/Model-Student-Success-Plan.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US) **Completed** |
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| **District** | **Percentage of Students with** [**Graduation Plans**](https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohio-s-Graduation-Requirements/Graduation-Plans-and-Policies-for-Identifying-Stud) **Completed** |
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*Note: Please add space/rows as needed.*