**Strengthen Business and Education Partnerships: Business Advisory Council Resources**

*Ways Businesses can Collaborate with Business Advisory Councils*

**Overview**

Ohio law requires every school district and Educational Service Center to have a Business Advisory Council. In March 2021, this law was revised to allow Joint Vocational School Districts to represent districts in the capacity of a Business Advisory Council.

These locally driven business-education partnerships operate to convene, engage, and build strong relationships between business and industry to elevate the learning experiences in the classroom to practical implementation and workforce readiness for students throughout Ohio.

There are over 108 Business Advisory Councils in Ohio. To find out more about Business Advisory Councils and one in your region scan the QR code and do a keyword search for Business Advisory Councils. Qr code

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**Why get involved?**

Ohio has a thriving economy which demands growth of a skilled talent pipeline. According to “[Bridging Ohio’s Workforce Gap"](https://completetocompeteohio.org/wp-content/uploads/Bridging-Ohios-Workforce-Gap-Attainment-Plan-August-2020.pdf), there is a need for almost one million individuals with high value credentials to keep the state’s economy moving forward.

Business Advisory Councils are positioned to play a critical role in bridging this gap. By getting involved, our economy thrives, communities soar, and students are prepared to be productive citizens empowered to contribute to Ohio’s economy.

**Ways to be involved.**

There are many opportunities that exist for you to become involved with a Business Advisory Council in your region.

* **Influence Curriculum** – Businesses can help inform curriculum within local school districts. Businesses can help make the connection between academic content and real-world application in their respective professional backgrounds.
* **Mentorship** – Businesses can be a vital resource in influencing the future workforce through career-based mentorship for students by modeling behaviors appropriate in a professional environment. Mentorship is a requirement for students earning the [Ohiomeansjobs readiness seal.](http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/New-Skills-for-Youth/SuccessBound/OhioMeansJobs-Readiness-Seal/Validating-the-OhioMeansJobs-Readiness-Seal-Mentors.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US)
* **Internships and Apprenticeships** – Students need hands on application opportunities to reinforce knowledge learned in the classroom. These [work-based learning](http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Career-Tech/Career-Connections/Work-Based-Learning/Work-Based-Learning-for-Businesses-and-Communities) experiences prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials and prepare them for skilled employment to close talent pipeline challenges.
* **Educator Career Exploration** – Businesses can provide educator career exploration opportunities. Educators can then inform students of local opportunities through an experiential lens and align curriculum with skills needed to fill local workforce gaps.
* **Business Expertise** – Businesses can offer professional recommendations to districts on budgetary, industry specific and hiring decisions.
* **Speakers Bureau** – To expose students to various career options, businesses can partner with schools to give students insights into different career paths and required training and credentials needed.