

Guidelines for Joint Vocational School Districts Operating as Business Advisory Councils

Legislative Requirements

[Ohio law](#) requires every school district and educational service center to have a business advisory council. This law was amended on March 2, 2020, to allow joint vocational school districts to represent school districts as business advisory councils.

The primary role of the business advisory councils is to advise and provide recommendations to school boards on matters including, but not necessarily limited to, all of the following:

- The delineation of employment skills and development of curriculum to instill these skills.
- Changes in the economy and job market and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available.
- Suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel.

Business Advisory Councils are required to submit an annual plan to the Ohio Department of Education by Sept. 30 each year. A planning template is available on the Department's website.

Joint statements, summarizing the work of the council, should be published on the business advisory council's webpage by March 1 each year.

Initial Considerations

- Review the Business Advisory Council Operating Standards.
- Ensure there is a diverse group of business and industry professionals on the council's membership from various local industry sectors to address employment gaps.
- Consider using memorandums of understanding with districts that will subscribe to your business advisory council to outline expectations.
- When planning quarterly meetings, ensure collaboration between industry partners and school districts.

Sustainable Practices

The joint vocational school district should ensure continued growth and engagement with local and regional business partners to facilitate work-based learning experiences for K-12 students.