



Business Advisory Councils

2025 Joint Statement for Business Advisory Councils

Joint Statements must be made publicly available by March 1, 2025.

Name of Business Advisory Council:

Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio Business Advisory Council

Primary Contact:

Dr. Traci Hostetler, Superintendent
Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio
7320 N. Palmyra Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406
t.hostetler@esceasternohio.org
330.533.8755

Secondary Contact:

Sandy Furano, Director of Career Counseling Services
Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio
7320 N. Palmyra Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406
s.furano@esceasternohio.org
330.533.8755

1. Are there any changes to your Business Advisory Councils' structure or leadership since you submitted your plan for this academic year?

The structure of the ESCEO Business Advisory Council remains unchanged. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from August through May.

2. Of goals submitted in your 2025 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being goals accomplished. What goals were you able to accomplish?

On a scale of 1 to 10 in achieving the 2025 goals set by the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio BAC, we confidently rate our progress at 10/10. Below are the submitted goals along with details of our accomplishments.

ESCEO BAC Goals	Accomplishments
5th Annual Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo September 17-19, 2024	The Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo is held at the Canfield Fairgrounds in Mahoning County. Students from 7-12th grade participated in this interactive, hands-on skilled trades event.



	<p>There were school districts from five different counties present with over 6,000 students in attendance.</p>
4th Annual Mock Interview Boot Camp January 7, 2025	<p>The 4th Annual Mock Interview Boot Camp provided 90 students with the skills they need to have a successful interview for high school employment, college acceptance, or career jobs. The skills in this program included polishing and practicing interview questions, resume writing, interview preparation skills, dressing for success and interview follow-up etiquette.</p>
Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship September 2021 - Present	<p>The Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship provides the in-demand skills and resources students need to begin an exciting career in the building trades upon graduation. Students engage in hands-on projects putting their skills to the test in carpentry and a variety of other building trades. This course emphasizes hand tools used on job-sites, mathematics for the trades, blue-print reading, worksite safety, along with soft skills development. This program also introduces skills in brick laying, painting, laborers and more. Upon successful completion of the pre-apprenticeship program, students can earn up to 24 industry-recognized credentials along with direct entry into the building trades apprenticeship program after graduation. Over 500 students have enrolled in the Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program.</p>
YouScience August 2023 - Present	<p>We successfully implemented YouScience aptitude testing, effectively identifying the strengths and interests of middle and high school students and guiding them toward informed career exploration and decision-making. Through comprehensive assessments of cognitive abilities and personal preferences, students gained valuable insights into potential career paths that align with their unique skills and passions. As a result, participants received personalized career recommendations, enhanced self-awareness, and improved academic and vocational planning. This achievement has empowered students to make strategic educational and career choices, ultimately connecting them with fulfilling opportunities that match their capabilities and aspirations.</p>
Pathful Connect August 2023 - Present	<p>Pathful Connect has provided middle and high school students with an engaging platform to explore careers by connecting directly with industry professionals. Through virtual events, live Q&A sessions, and career resources, students gained valuable insights into various professions across fields like science,</p>



	<p>technology, arts, and trades. This initiative increased student engagement, improved career awareness, and empowered them to make informed decisions about their future. Data from participation rates, student interactions, and feedback surveys demonstrated measurable outcomes, including enhanced decision-making and networking opportunities. With over 2,000 students engaged, Pathful Connect has proven to be a valuable tool in preparing students for their future careers.</p>
Career Exploration Courses August 2018 - Present	<p>Career exploration courses expose students to different careers to help them understand the skills required for each profession. In addition, student career exploration courses play a vital role in helping young individuals discover their passion while equipping them with the necessary skills for success in the professional world such as decision-making, problem-solving, and critical thinking. By providing exposure to various careers, fostering skill development, and encouraging self-reflection; these courses empower students to make informed decisions about their future endeavors.</p>
Career Exploration Through Virtual Reality Lenses August 2024 - Present	<p>We successfully facilitated career exploration by utilizing VR lenses and Transfr software, enabling middle and high school students to immerse themselves in a variety of careers. Since August 2024, over 6,500 simulations have been viewed by these students. Through this innovative technology, students experienced hands-on, realistic simulations that provided insight into different professions, industries, and skill requirements. By engaging in interactive, real-world job scenarios, students were able to explore career options in a dynamic and experiential way, enhancing their understanding of potential career paths. This approach not only increased career awareness but also helped students make informed decisions about their future education and professional pursuits.</p>
ESC YOUTH Entrepreneurship Program February 2025	<p>The middle and high school entrepreneurship program is designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while equipping students with practical business knowledge and financial literacy. By emphasizing teamwork, leadership, and communication, the program empowers students to develop viable business plans and gain hands-on experience in launching projects or startups. Currently, this program is being piloted in select school districts to assess its impact and effectiveness.</p>



Junior Achievement Inspire Career Day and Public Safety Expo February 2025	<p>The Junior Achievement Inspire Event and Public Safety Expo combined into a dynamic one-day experience, providing students with the opportunity to explore careers in public safety alongside a wide range of other career pathways. Students participated in several interactive demonstrations, allowing them to gain hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of various professions. This engaging event brought together approximately 1,000 students from Mahoning, Ashtabula, and Trumbull counties, offering them valuable insights and exposure to potential career opportunities that align with their skills and interests.</p>
Information Technology Pre-Apprenticeship August 2023 - Present	<p>Partnership with Youngstown State University Division of Workforce Education, local school districts, and businesses to develop pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways in the information technology field. The goal of the program is to connect students, school employers, and valley businesses together to develop a pipeline of locally grown talent to meet the demand of our region's growing information technology needs. Students in this pre-apprenticeship have the opportunity to work with local employers in the technology field or choose to work directly in their school with their district's technology department as a support specialist. Students in the program have the opportunity to complete CompTIA, IBM, and Microsoft credentials as well as an Ohio State Apprenticeship Council Recognized Pre-Apprenticeship Program Certificate of Completion, as well as their Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal, and Industry Recognized Credential Seal.</p>
Drone Education Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification August 2023 - Present	<p>We have successfully met these goals in nine schools across Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties, introducing students to the evolving field of drone technology within the K-12 setting. This program provides students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge of drones beyond recreational use and prepare for commercial applications.</p> <p>Currently, 142 students are enrolled in the program, progressing through various levels of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sUAS Safety Level 1 – 54 students completed• sUAS Safety Level 2 – 40 students completed• FAA Part 107 Level 3 – 23 students completed <p>Participants work toward earning their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification,</p>



	<p>equipping them with the credentials necessary for commercial drone operations. Additionally, students who achieve certification can further enhance their expertise by completing VSO Ground and Flight Training, advancing their skills for real-world applications and career opportunities in drone technology.</p>
Building Trades Competition March 2024 - Present	<p>The High School Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship program provided students with valuable hands-on experience, culminating in several participants achieving 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the 2024 Building Trades Competition. This competition challenged students to construct an Adirondack chair, allowing them to develop essential skills relevant to the building trades while fostering teamwork and creativity in a structured learning environment. Through this experience, students gained practical knowledge, honed their craftsmanship, and enhanced their problem-solving abilities, preparing them for future opportunities in the construction industry.</p> <p>A total of 20 students submitted an Adirondack chair to be judged, showcasing their craftsmanship and technical abilities. Several students went above and beyond the competition requirements, incorporating cup holders, stools, and intricate engravings into their designs, demonstrating their creativity and attention to detail. The competition served as a valuable opportunity for students to engage deeply in their trade, refining their skills through practical application. Industry mentors provided positive feedback, noting the impressive craftsmanship and significant progress students made in their understanding of trade concepts. The competition not only highlighted the students' technical proficiency but also reinforced the importance of innovation and problem-solving in the building trades. Through this initiative, students gained real-world experience, applied technical skills, and received industry recognition, further preparing them for future careers in the skilled trades workforce.</p>
Job Shadow Experiences August 2018 - Present	<p>The job shadowing experience provided students with the opportunity to explore potential career paths, ask questions, and seek advice from experienced professionals. These experiences offered invaluable networking opportunities, allowing students to build connections that could lead to future internships, mentorships, or job opportunities. Our Career Counseling Department collaborated with Business Advisory Council (BAC) members and local community partners to facilitate these job shadowing opportunities, ensuring students had access to a</p>



	<p>diverse range of industries and professionals. Through these experiences, students gained firsthand knowledge about the skills required for various professions, helping them assess whether their interests align with career realities. Additionally, participants expanded their professional networks by connecting with industry professionals, increasing their chances of securing future mentorships or employment opportunities. Over 150 students took part in job shadowing experiences, gaining valuable insights and connections that will support their career development and decision-making.</p>
--	--

a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

Funding and resource constraints and equity and access have created challenges in implementing our goals. Career readiness initiatives require financial resources for staffing, technology, transportation, and materials, but limitations in school district budgets and grant availability have made it difficult to fully support these programs. Additionally, ensuring that all students, including those in rural or underserved communities, have equal access to career counseling, workforce training, and industry partnerships remains an ongoing challenge. These barriers impact students' ability to participate in valuable career exploration opportunities, limiting their exposure to potential career paths and essential workforce skills.

3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the SY25?

Below is a table showing the new partnerships that have been established with the ESCEO Business Advisory Council for SY25.

Badger Local School District	Badger Local Schools purchased Career Counseling Services from the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio (ESCEO) in August 2024. They actively participate in our monthly Business Advisory Council (BAC) meetings, contributing to collaborative efforts in career readiness and workforce development.
Jobs for Ohio's Graduates	Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping young people successfully transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce. The program focuses on career readiness, leadership development, and job placement, providing students with essential skills, mentorship, and support to achieve their career goals. JOG partners with schools, businesses, and community organizations to empower students to overcome barriers and succeed in today's competitive job market.
Lake to River Economic Development	Lake to River Economic Development is dedicated to fostering sustainable economic growth in Eastern Ohio, focusing on site development, business attraction, and strategic infrastructure enhancement. Serving a four-county region from Lake Erie to the



	Ohio River, the organization leverages local assets, including advanced manufacturing, energy resources, and strategic transportation networks, to drive economic prosperity. It also emphasizes workforce development by aligning education with industry needs to build a skilled labor force.
Ohio State Highway Patrol Canfield Ohio Post	The Ohio State Highway Patrol actively collaborates with the Business Advisory Council (BAC) to provide students with insights into careers in law enforcement. Through this partnership, students have the opportunity to participate in ride-along experiences, gaining firsthand knowledge of the daily responsibilities of state troopers. This initiative aims to inspire and educate students about potential career paths in public safety and law enforcement.
Potential Development School for Autism	In August 2024, the Potential Development School for Autism in Youngstown, Ohio, purchased Career Counseling Services from the Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio (ESCEO). They actively participate in our monthly Business Advisory Council (BAC) meetings, contributing to collaborative discussions on career readiness and workforce development.

4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your SY25 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.

The Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio (ESCEO) has not removed any goals for the 2024-2025 school year, but has added a new objective. Our latest goal is to organize a Student Drone Showcase to raise awareness about the career opportunities available as a certified drone pilot. This event aims to engage students across Northeast Ohio, highlighting the potential of drone technology in various industries. We have partnered with Youngstown State University and the Unmanned Safety Institute to bring this initiative to life. The showcase is scheduled to take place in April 2025.

5. Have you received any media coverage or participated in any case studies as a Business Advisory Council? If so, please share.

Below are links to media coverage that spotlights our Career Counseling team and our ESCEO Business Advisory Council initiatives and events.

- [Campbell Memorial High School IRC's](#)
- [Marlington High School Students uses VR Lenses for Career Exploration](#)
- [Jackson-Milton Drone Pilots](#)
- [Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo](#)
- [JA Inspire Career Day](#)