

Introduction

This agenda guides the BAC's advocacy, partnership building, and policy recommendations for the 2025-2026 School Year. Themes reflect ongoing committee priorities: evidence-based literacy, career pathways, teacher quality, absenteeism, economic mobility, and new priorities in math access and choice accountability.

1 | SCIENCE OF READING (SOR) IMPLEMENTATION

Status: Adopted Legislation/Monitor Implementation

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Ohio's \$174 million investment highlights unprecedented state commitment to evidence-based reading reform.
- Comprehensive teacher training now offered, with gaps in district funding.
- Every teacher preparation institution audited for SoR integration.
- Training now includes school psychologists and speech-language pathologists.
- Teachers must recertify every five years, with SoR training counted toward renewal.
- Huber Heights adopted Amplify curriculum and Letters PD.
- State is developing onboarding programs for new education employees.

ACTION POINTS:

- Address ongoing funding challenges for district participation.
- Promote success stories; encourage business support.
- Focus on early prevention strategies and predictive assessment tools.
- Monitor/mitigate secondary teacher resistance.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Leverage audit and recertification data for funding advocacy.
- Facilitate best practices across districts.
- Connect outcomes related to reading proficiency with career pathway expectations.
- Ensure new teacher onboarding across all districts cover the effective implementation of the science of reading.

2 | CAREER PATHWAYS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Status: Adopted Legislation/Monitor Implementation

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Kettering's four-year career navigator is a model for systematic career exploration.
- Monthly themed pathways span preschool to grade 12.
- YouScience enables data-driven career recommendations.
- Connections with professionals remain critical.
- Accelerated degree completion addresses affordability gaps, with community colleges more accessible.
- Credentials enable workforce entry and debt reduction.

ACTION POINTS:

- Expand professional, industry relationship building for students.
- Integrate career pathway experiences and standards between K-12 and higher ed; advocacy for tangible graduation deliverables.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Partner with local employers for networking and field trips.
- Track outcomes for BAC reporting.
- Support seamless integration of career pathways.
- Collect and socialize data relative to work based learning.

3 | TEACHER QUALITY OF LIFE

Status: Advocacy

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- 44% of new teachers leave within five years; planning time and growing complexity contribute to burnout. See Richard Ingersoll and Thomas B Fordham Institute.
- Self-censorship and stress exacerbated by external pressures.
- Kettering's wellness programs are models for mental health, stress management, and resilience.

ACTION POINTS:

- Recognize teaching complexity and classroom management challenges.
- Support expanded wellness initiatives and planning time.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Prioritize teacher retention in BAC statements.
- Replicate successful wellness initiatives across districts.
- Explore the efficacy of maternity/paternity/parental paid leave through state support for birth mothers and supporting partners.

4 | CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM CHALLENGE

Status: Proposed Legislation/Advocacy

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Students: 90% of Ohio districts exceed absenteeism benchmarks; Kettering performs well by leveraging family engagement.
- Students: "Stay in the Game" and incentive programs show promise.
- Teachers: Frequent teacher absences have negative impact on student performance
- Teachers: Teacher absenteeism is a financial and administrative burden on local school districts.
Note: See National Council on Teacher Quality reports on student and teacher absenteeism

ACTION POINTS:

- Support varied approaches and recognize chronic illness exceptions.
- Advocate for early interventions and positive incentives.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Endorse BAC action on absenteeism reduction.
- Use data for benchmarks and communicate results regularly.

5 | SECONDARY- POST-SECONDARY INTEGRATION

Status: Adopted Legislation/Monitor Implementation

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Work-based learning required for career pathway continuity.
- Advisory committee formed to set standards and support planning.

ACTION POINTS:

- Ensure smooth K-12/higher ed transitions.
- Share audit results for refinement.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Convene sessions before the next BAC meeting to review priorities.
- Maintain advocacy for career pathway integration.
- Implement Modern States/CLEP in regional higher education institutions to foster college affordability and accelerate learning.

6 | ACCOUNTABILITY IN A CHOICE ENVIRONMENT

Status: Legislative Opportunity

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- EdChoice is established in Ohio, supporting families opting for private school.
- Accountability practices vary nationally; Louisiana and Indiana have models where private schools face integrated accountability with letter grades and sanctions for persistent underperformance.
- Ohio invests significant public dollars in choice, demanding robust accountability to ensure quality and value.

ACTION POINTS:

- Investigate best practices for private school accountability nationwide.
- Drive discussion on integrating Ohio's accountability for choice students—every child should receive higher quality education than their public school alternative.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Recommend system alignment for academic/social accountability, consistent with public schools.
- Support legislative inquiry and reform decision-making to ensure high standards in choice environments.

7 | PROMOTE AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF HIGH ACHIEVERS IN ADVANCED MATH COURSES

Status: Proposed Legislation/Advocacy

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Automatic enrollment policies guarantee placement in advanced math courses for high-performing students, using prior-year test scores as the objective measure for eligibility.
- States including North Carolina and Texas have enacted policies to automatically place high-achieving seventh graders into eighth grade Algebra I, a critical gateway to more advanced high school mathematics.
- Tying advanced course placement to achievement data, rather than subjective decisions or recommendations, ensures gifted ("HALO") students gain equitable access to rigorous instruction and mathematics acceleration.
- Evidence suggests these policies increase representation of high-achieving and underrepresented students in advanced math pathways and help close opportunity gaps.
- Complements Science of Reading priorities with a focus on equitable academic placement.

ACTION POINTS:

- Advocate for district-wide adoption of automatic enrollment for high achievers in middle and high school math, building on North Carolina and Texas models.
- Use objective metrics such as standardized test score cutoffs to identify eligible students for accelerated placement.
- Review policies for alignment with growing mathematics performance expectations.
- Advocate for implementation of opt-out Algebra I enrollment across districts based on clear readiness metrics.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Work with district curriculum teams to set clear, uniform criteria for automatic math placement based on achievement data.
- Develop family and educator communications to highlight program pathway benefits and address common questions.
- Track student enrollment and success in advanced math annually, reporting results for continuous improvement.
- Support state legislation and local policies that require or incentivize automatic enrollment for high achievers and share outcomes with partners including the Thomas B. Fordham Institute.
- Promote broad stakeholder buy-in to reduce placement discretion.

8 | BABY BONDS FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Status: Legislative Opportunity

KEY FACTS & UPDATES:

- Bipartisan support for Baby Bonds initiatives for Medicaid-eligible births.
- Trust funds support housing, college, entrepreneurship, and financial stability.
- Federal Reserve Cleveland session scheduled for further legislative education.

ACTION POINTS:

- Position Baby Bonds as a preventive stability investment.
- Use red and blue models as references.

ADVOCACY STEPS:

- Engage BAC in legislative viability work.
- Model pilot programs; promote outcome data with stakeholders.
- Identify legislative champions for Baby Bonds