



2025 Joint Statement for the Preble County Business Advisory Council

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

Name of Business Advisory Council: Preble County ESC BAC

Primary Contact: Mike Derringer

Secondary Contact: Harold Niehaus

1. Are there any changes to your Business Advisory Councils' structure or leadership since you submitted your plan for this academic year? No; our mission remains steadfast as shared below.

Mission Statement:

Create productive partnerships that will keep our "people" resources in Preble County and work with these resources to develop the needed skills to create productive workers and assets for our community.

Scheduled meetings for SY25

October 9, 2024 at 3:00 PM

December 11, 2024 at 3:00 PM

February 12, 2025 at 3:00 PM

April 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM

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

The below BAC plan has completed some of the stated goals within the timeline presented and will finish the others through membership support and collaboration as well as the guidance of the PCESC Career Connections Director.

The Preble County Educational Service Center has a Career Connections Director and through their work, the BAC has collaborated with the Preble County Workforce Development Committee, to address the current and future employment needs of businesses throughout the county. From the business perspective, the purpose of collaboration is to make students aware of the career opportunities they have in their hometowns. From an educational perspective, we see the value in having a strong business presence in our local communities and schools. Having a business presence exposes students to options they may not know to exist otherwise.

Highlighted Activities:

- **Senior Interviews (September-January) (10-Goal Accomplished)**
-The PCESC Career Connections Director met with every available senior in their home county school to discuss their interests, college/career plans, goals, and steps they have taken toward their college/career goals. There has been the development of action steps for each student to take to accomplish their goals.
- **Experience Your Chosen Careers Day (Fall 2024 – September 5, 2024) (10-Goal Accomplished)**
-This event involved all school district 8th-grade students who took a survey and chose to experience 4 of the 16 career clusters while attending this event. There were over 50 business professionals who involved the 450+ students in hands-on experiences from the trades involving welding, electrical, and carpentry to manufacturing, law and public safety, health, governmental services, etc.
- **Ag STEM Day (Fall 2024 – September 26, 2024) (10-Goal Accomplished)**
-This event involved all county school 3rd-grade students experiencing STEM careers in Agriculture. The over 425 students were involved in career stations from drone and high-tech equipment usage to soil science, animal husbandry and nutrition, and plant sciences.
- **Career Fair (Fall 2024 – November 22nd) (10-Goal Accomplished)**
-This is an event where school districts from across the county take students to a local district (National Trail this year) to talk with multiple businesses from across the area while getting personal exposure to what the businesses do daily. This event involved approximately 600 juniors and seniors and over 70 area businesses and 35 colleges.

Activities yet to be completed this school year

- **Industry Sectors Day (March 4, 2025)**
-During this event, high school juniors along with school district educators, have the opportunity to talk with various management levels, including senior-level management, about different career options and avenues that are available in their hometowns. All attending seniors attended two tours to local manufacturers. They also take advantage of the opportunity to visit 12-minute round-tables with area employers in healthcare, agriculture, public safety, business, finance, construction trades, as well as manufacturing. Students get an opportunity to express interest in any business they would like to know about through a survey where they can signify if they would be interested in internships or full-time employment.

- **Career Roundtables (For Freshman and Sophomores)**
 - During these events, students have to be linked with business professionals from their specific career cluster interests to have small group discussions on how to move toward their goals for their career. Business professionals have shared the specific career paths they took to get to their current roles. Students can ask a variety of questions during these small group discussions. Students will also learn about positions that businesses are currently looking to fill and the steps they would need to take if they want to apply.

- **Elementary Career Awareness**
 - **4th grade Careers Day (May 13, 2025)**
 - **completed in 2024 and now booked for 2025**
 - **5th grade Careers Day (May 14, 2025)**
 - **completed in 2024 and now booked for 2025**
 - These experiences are targeted gatherings that expose the selected grades in all 16 national career cluster areas. Coordination provided by the Career Connections Director brings together schools and their respective students and local businesses to provide hands-on career experiences that are relative to Preble County, Ohio, and beyond.

- **Career Signing Days (During In-Demand Jobs Week - May 5-9, 2025)**
 - This event will be to specifically recognize those students who have decided to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation, similar to what school districts do with College Signing Days. For those students who have chosen this path and have been hired by a local business, there will be an event in which the business(s) will go to the school(s) and set up a table with their business paraphernalia and the student will publicly “sign-on” with that specific company during a ceremony and be recognized in front of their peers.

- **Lunch and Learns for Juniors and Seniors (Culminating In-Demand Jobs Week)**
 - **(Starting April 1st and culminating during In-Demand Jobs Week - May 5-9)**
 - These events will specifically connect seniors and juniors desiring to enter the workforce upon graduation with businesses through a round-table setting that includes both interested employers and students.

- **Internships**
 - This continues to be a successful program with opportunities having grown from those in large manufacturers to expansions into local government offices and small businesses. This year they continue and expand to be an option for other students who are interested in entering the workforce. Interns receive a mentor from their respective business who works with them throughout their internship. The OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal criteria are used as an evaluative tool to assist the intern in the development and enhancement of skills.

- **Creation of Pre-Apprenticeship/Registered Apprenticeship Programs**

-With the continued work of the Career Connections Director position, we have held and will continue to hold apprenticeship meetings with local businesses, school districts, and potential sponsors. From these meetings, the first registered apprenticeship program and pre-apprenticeship program have already been developed to provide additional opportunities for students and businesses. As mentioned, additional apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities continue to be investigated and created.

- **Career and Conservation Day Camp (June 24-26, 2025)**

-Manufacturing and other career lessons will be shared at the Preble County Soil and Water District Career and Conservation Day Camp. Through a partnership of the PCSWCD and the PCECSC Career Connections Director, hands-on lessons and experiences will be shared with students in grades 2-6.

a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

Our biggest challenge is gaining parent/guardian involvement with their students concerning future career thoughts and plans.

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

a. New businesses continue to be rotated into the BAC to bring in additional support and connections for SY25 and beyond.

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

a. The BAC has developed their process for guidance and appropriate oversight of work-based learning to meet ORC shared earlier this year. Other than that, we are continuing to focus on parent/guardian engagement to add more value and understanding of the work we do with their students.

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

a. Our media coverage has been around the many events and experiences provided to students through our business and education collaborations.