

Ashtabula County Educational Service Center  
Business Advisory Council Plan  
2021- 2022

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**Representing the following School Districts:**

Ashtabula Area City School District  
Ashtabula County Educational School District  
Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus  
Buckeye Local School District  
Conneaut Area School District  
Geneva Area School District  
Grand Valley Local School District  
Jefferson Area Local School District  
Pymatuning Valley Local School District

# **Ashtabula County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council (ACESC BAC)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In today's economy, it is critical that Ohio schools prepare all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in future learning, careers and life. Parents, educators and the business community want to prepare students for successful career paths, whether those include college degrees, industry credentials, apprenticeships, military enlistment or a combination of these. Businesses are important partners who can help shape the educational experiences of all students in Ohio schools. Businesses can partner with schools to share news about job trends and opportunities, as well as economic changes that will affect jobs. They can play a role in district curriculum development and help create new opportunities for students, such as work-based learning experiences.

To help build relationships between businesses and schools, Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code section 3313.82) requires every school district and educational service center (ESC) to have a business advisory council. Recently, the Ohio General Assembly enacted Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 3313.821 (as part of Am. Sub H.B. 49) which directs the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with the governor's executive workforce board, to develop standards for the operation of business advisory councils established by the boards of education of school districts or the governing boards of ESCs throughout the state. Under this Ohio law, each school district board of education must have a BAC. The law allows districts to enter into an agreement with their ESC to have the ESC's Business Advisory Council represent the businesses of the district.

All school districts served by the Ashtabula County ESC agreed that the ESC's business advisory council may act as their business advisory council.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Ashtabula County economy has been changing for decades. Today, it is more complex, diversified and demanding than it was just a generation ago. Once upon a time, students could choose to go to college or take any number of jobs at local companies straight out of high school. Their choices were relatively straightforward. Then, seemingly suddenly, the global economy and rapidly changing technology upended all the rules and expectations. Major companies closed their doors, while jobs evaporated, changed and shifted.

Our region has been amazingly resilient, and it is rebounding. Existing companies are creating new jobs, and our community is attracting new businesses. But today's job opportunities are different and, by no means, guaranteed. Many of these companies share an urgent need for skilled workers. They are making decisions about their future in our community based on the availability of a qualified and well-educated workforce.

As a community, we are excited that many young people will choose to earn a college degree. We support these graduates' goals and aspirations. But a 4-year degree is not the only valid plan after high school. Locally, many of our most in-demand, living-wage jobs require an associate's degree or certificate. But, noble and rewarding as these career choices are, too often they're not being highlighted at home or in our schools.

It is our job to change that conversation. We must support all of our students' career plans and provide exciting and rewarding options that allow all young people to succeed at work.

The challenge of the Ashtabula County ESC Business Advisory Council is to identify current connections and create new meaningful connections between our local industries that are creating the jobs of the future, and our schools that are educating the workforce of the future. The goal is that together we will help our students make informed educational decisions that prepare them for careers in local industries.

## **ESTABLISH A BAC TO:**

Ensure our workforce can compete by enhancing partnerships between schools, higher education and employers

- Ensuring student success and career-readiness
- Helping existing and new businesses thrive
- Keeping talent in our region
- Making Ashtabula County a great place to live and work

## **PURPOSE:**

Business advisory councils foster cooperation among schools, businesses and the communities they serve. This work ensures that the work of educators aligns with the needs of businesses. This cooperation can make a local education system more aware of the local labor market; promote work based experiences within businesses; and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.

## **VISION:**

All ACESC BAC member district students are career-focused and have the preparation they need to succeed on the job and in life.

## **MISSION:**

The mission of the ACESC BAC is to foster cooperation among our member schools, business and the communities they serve to make our education system more aware of the local labor market, promote work-based experiences within businesses; and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.

## **GOAL:**

*The goal is that together we will help our students make informed educational decisions that prepare them for careers in local industries.*

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide advice to local school districts on changes in the economy and job market in an effort to identify which jobs will most likely be available to students.
2. To provide feedback on the employment skills most critical to business and industry at the local level.
3. To advocate for the inclusion of the identified employment skill in the development of curriculum.
4. To aid and support local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among educators, business and labor organizations.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Business Advisory Council's responsibilities under 3313.82 include advising and providing recommendations on the delineation of employment skills and the development of curriculum to instill these skills; on changes in the economy and in the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available; on suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel. We will accomplish this task by providing our meeting minutes and statements describing our recommendations to the local boards of education. This plan will be revised and updated annually. **The BAC will plan quarterly meetings.**

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Promote community engagement and outreach.

Annual review of the activities in our comprehensive database of current school based/employer based activities that are occurring in our county.

Create awareness of the activities and best practices in each of the school districts and with local employers.

Continue to review reported best practices from other Business Advisory Councils in the state to determine feasibility and duplication of the practice.

Move toward establishing awareness and adoption of the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal in our county.

# ACESC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The current members of the Business Advisory Council are listed below. The group included representatives from school districts, major industries, higher education, local government, local economic development organizations and other community partners.

Mr. Patrick J. Arcaro, Executive Director Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services [Patrick.Arcaro@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Patrick.Arcaro@jfs.ohio.gov)

Mr. Mike Candela, Superintendent, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center  
[Mike.Candela@ashtabulaesc.org](mailto:Mike.Candela@ashtabulaesc.org)

Ms. Beth Dougherty, Human Resource Generalist, INEOS Pigments USA  
[Inc.beth.dougherty@ineos.com](mailto:Inc.beth.dougherty@ineos.com)

Mr. Jonathan Forbes, Director, Human Resources at Ashtabula County Medical Center  
[Jonathan.Forbes@acmchealth.org](mailto:Jonathan.Forbes@acmchealth.org)

Ms. Hattie Grubke-Barnard, Program Administrator Workforce Development, Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula [Hattie.Grubke-Barnard@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Hattie.Grubke-Barnard@jfs.ohio.gov)

Mr. Richard L. Jackson, Executive Vice President, Operations  
ASHTA Chemicals, Inc., [RJackson@ashtachemicals.com](mailto:RJackson@ashtachemicals.com)

Ms. Kelli Jones, Incoming Executive Director, Leadership Ashtabula County  
[kelli@leadershipac.org](mailto:kelli@leadershipac.org)

Mr. Greg Myers, Executive Director, Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County  
[greg@ashtabulagrowth.com](mailto:greg@ashtabulagrowth.com)

Dr. William Nye, Superintendent, Grand Valley Local School District  
[William.Nye@grandvalley.school](mailto:William.Nye@grandvalley.school)

Ms. Christina Ray, Human Resources Director, Ashtabula County ESC  
[christina.ray@ashtabulaesc.org](mailto:christina.ray@ashtabulaesc.org)

Mr. John Ringer, President, Ringer Screen Print, Inc. [johnr@wholesaleimprints.net](mailto:johnr@wholesaleimprints.net)

Mr. Mike Sass, Director of Human Resources, Community Care Ambulance  
[msass@ccan.org](mailto:msass@ccan.org)

Mr. Craig Sernik, Executive Director Area 19 NOC COG [craigsernik@neohio.twcbc.com](mailto:craigsernik@neohio.twcbc.com)

Ms. Lisa Shank, Human Resources Manager, Lake City Plating  
[lisa@lakecityplating.com](mailto:lisa@lakecityplating.com)

Mr. George Smith, ACESC Board Member, [george.smith@asthabulaesc.org](mailto:george.smith@asthabulaesc.org)

Dr. Sue Stocker, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, Kent State University at Ashtabula  
[sjstocke@kent.edu](mailto:sjstocke@kent.edu)

Mr. William Stoots, Operations Manager, Worthington Cylinders  
[william.stoots@worthingtonindustries.com](mailto:william.stoots@worthingtonindustries.com)

Mr. Scott Wludyga Superintendent Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus  
[Scott.Wludyga@atech.edu](mailto:Scott.Wludyga@atech.edu)

Ms. Wendy Zele, Manager, External Affairs, FirstEnergy Corp. [wfzele@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:wfzele@firstenergycorp.com)

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