



ATHENS-MEIGS EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

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Business Advisory Council Plan & Joint Statement – Academic Year 2020-2021

Mission Statement/Purpose:

The mission of the Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council is to advocate and facilitate active relationships between students, parents, and educational partners, focusing on developing robust career pathway development programs and opportunities. Our Business Advisory Council fosters 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. Business advisory councils include regional business leaders who are familiar with business and industry needs. Members partner with district leaders to plan and carry out the council's work.

Membership:

The hosting organization for the Athens-Meigs ESC is Project RISE, the career development program for participating school districts. The composition of the Business Advisory Council includes school districts served by the ESC, a variety of business representatives from each industry in the area, and economic development and workforce partners. It is important for the ESC Business Advisory Council to have represented each industry, each school district, and any community organizations that would be beneficial in developing career opportunities for students. There are a total of 80 businesses that receive meeting invites, but the list below includes the businesses and agencies who attend regularly.

Business/Community Advisory Council Members

Member	Employer	Industry
Laurie Gribble-McKnight	Workforce Development Board, Executive Director	Community Agency
Jennifer L'Heureux	Nelsonville Emporium, Owner	Small Business
Neill Lane	Global Cooling, CEO	Manufacturing
Paul Benedict	Ohio University, Entrepreneur Director	Higher Education

Carrie Arnold	Hocking College	Higher Education
Annett Porter	TSTech, HR Manager	Manufacturing
Joe Brehm	Rural Action, Educational Director	Natural Resources
Jordan Endres	Rocky Boots, HR Manager	Retail, Distribution
Sam Thorton	Athens Mold & Machine, Owner	Manufacturing
Michelle Oestrike	Athens County Chamber, Executive Director	Community Agency
Kenny Bailey	Pipefitters Union	Apprenticeships
Jeremy Welch	Carpenter's Union	Apprenticeships
Lindsay Barnett	Hilton/Hampton Inn	Hospitality
Steve Patterson	City of Athens, Mayor	Government
Brianna Edwards	OhioHealth	Health Care

Participating School Districts:

Member Name	School District	Title
Karrie Hanning	Alexander Local School District	High School Counselor
David Hanning	Federal Hocking Local School District	Superintendent
Amy Riccardi	Nelsonville-York City School District	Curriculum Director
Connie Altier	Tri-County Career Center	Superintendent
Laci Thomas	Trimble Local School District	High School Counselor
Amy Perrin	Meigs Local School District	School and Community Engagement Coordinator
Shawn Bush	Eastern (Meigs) Local	High School Principal

	School District	
Jenna Meeks	Southern (Meigs) Local School District	Agriculture Teacher
Addey Yohn	Southern (Perry) Local School District	High School Counselor

Schedule of Meetings:

The Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center serves three different counties and has decided to host smaller county focused subcommittees. Athens County (and Southern Perry School District) will be having bi-monthly meetings listed below, and Meigs County will be having quarterly meetings. In between the two meetings, there will also be a Multi-County Resource Meeting that is held quarterly to bring all school districts and businesses together to share ideas.

Multi-County Meetings
July 30, 2020
October 22, 2020
January 21, 2021
April 24, 2021

Responsibilities:

The Business Advisory Committee may evaluate the performance of a program, review a specific program, serve as an advocate for the organization to the community it serves, gather input from/serve as a liaison with relevant constituencies, provide feedback to the organization from the community, provide technical expertise, provide an unbiased sounding board, and/or assist staff in determining important activities. Other possible responsibilities of the advisory committee include determining the mission and purpose of a program; articulating the goals, means, and primary constituents to be served by a program; ensuring effective planning, monitoring and strengthening of programs and services; ensuring adequate financial resources; and enhancing the organization’s public standing.

This section describes the responsibilities of the Business Advisory Council as agreed upon with the district or ESC governing board. Additional responsibilities are outlined under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3313.82 with additional requirements addressed under ORC 3313.821.

Delineation of Employment Skills

The Business Advisory Council will research and gather information from local business needs surveys sent out by Project RISE and the Chamber of Commerce. Other than surveys, business roundtables are hosted to identify employers identified employability skills.

Action Steps	Responsible Party	Deadline	Resources
Business Needs Survey	Project RISE and Chamber Office	Annually	Marketing to expand the survey's reach
In-Demand Jobs Presentation	Laurie Gribble-McKnight (WDB Area 14)	Bi-Annually (May & October)	Ohio Means Jobs Report

Development of a curriculum to Instill Employment Skills

After identifying the employability skills that businesses look for when hiring, the Business Advisory Council will develop programs to implement those skills, either within the curriculum or outside activity.

Action Steps	Responsible Party	Deadline	Resources
Exposure Activities	Project RISE & School Districts Liaison	Throughout the year	Planning tours, speakers, etc.
Virtual Tours and Career Pathways Specialist videos	Project RISE & Participating Companies	Throughout the school year	Students to edit videos, participating businesses
Career Counseling	Specific School Staff	Throughout the school year	Creating Career Plans
Virtual On-the-Job Experiences (Job Shadowing, Internships)	Project RISE, School District & Partner Businesses	Throughout the year	Placing students in experiential learning

The goal of the programs is to create a "Success Continuum" for any type of student, no matter their goal after high school.

Each part of the “Success Continuum” involves programs that have already been developed through Project RISE; it just orders them so that no matter where students enter in the continuum, they are able to access the business-identified employability skills. Some other activities included in the continuum include presentations, career fairs, mentors, career counseling, on-the-job experience, job placements, tours of facilities, and planning camps.

Changes in the Economy, the Job Market, and Future Job Availability

The Business Advisory Council understands the importance to stay up-to-date with the possible changes in the economy and job market. One key resource is the projections sheet provided by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, accessed here:

<http://ohiolmi.com/proj/projections/edr/EDR11.pdf>

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Another way to stay conscious of the changing economy and job market is by partnering with major organizations in our region who work directly with economic development, including the Workforce Development Board Area 14, the Ohio Means Jobs Centers, the Buckeye Hills Regional Council, and the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth.

With the economy both shrinking and expanding and with new technology introduced into careers, the jobs in the area are ever-changing. The ESC works closely with many business partners in order to capture the area jobs of the “future.” As well as introducing an entrepreneurial mindset to students at a younger age will allow them to have a growth mindset when being introduced to new jobs.

Developing Relationships

The preparation of students for the workforce cannot be accomplished without partnerships with the business community, labor organizations, and education personnel. The Business Advisory Council, because of its members, can provide recommendations on how to develop these relationships that benefit the partners and, most importantly, the students.

Action Steps	Responsible Party	Deadline	Resources
Host Meaningful Meetings	Project RISE	Throughout the year (Schedule listed above)	Feedback from partners
Host Successful Events	Project RISE	Throughout the year	Feedback from partners
Collaborate Effectively	Project RISE	Throughout the year	Feedback from partners

With developing these relationships, releasing meetings information to the public in a timely manner in order to gain more participation is essential. Once businesses participate, Project RISE must follow-up with the business to form a formal agreement. This formal agreement allows sustainability with the program and the Business Advisory Council since it specifically lays out the responsibilities.

Joint Statement – Academic Year 2020-2022

Throughout the 2020-2021 Academic School Year the Athens, Meigs, and Multi-County Resource Meetings have been meeting as scheduled. Two break-out Business Advisory Councils with Athens and Meigs exist because the school districts and businesses in attendance felt that they were able to get more project/program implementation done at the smaller meetings, while the Multi-County Resource Meeting’s goal is to share out program updates, call to actions for projects and sharing of resources.

The ideas that are started at the Multi-County Resource Meetings are brought to the Business Advisory Council and executive meetings to start the creation and implementation of the new programs.

Activities at the Multi-County Resource Meetings include:

- sharing the needs within the companies that are present,
- In-Demand Jobs in our counties,
- program implementation and number updates,
- planning and feedback from events and programming, and
- sharing new ideas to mend the gaps of needs and resources.

During the July Multi-County Resource Meeting, businesses, organizations, and school districts alike were feeling the pressure and stress caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and decided to focus our agenda on resource sharing. Prior to the meeting, the Project RISE staff compiled a comprehensive list of organizations and businesses that were assisting the Southeastern Ohio Population with COVID-19 Relief. Also, during this

meeting Project RISE was able to highlight the Summer Internships placed with Rural Action and the Senior Success Stories from the previous school year.

During the October Multi-County Resource Meeting, Project RISE introduced the new idea of creating a video archive for Career Pathway Videos and the Manufacturing Month Videos. Everyone in attendance at the meeting was able to record and share their own Career Pathways which the staff will later prepare in a video format for the school districts to use. In addition to sharing Career Pathways, the other focus of the October meeting was an introduction to Manufacturing Month by reporting data and statistics as well as releasing the local Manufacturing Videos, which led to the introduction of November's Apprenticeship Week Event.

The most recent nature of the Council's advice and recommendations include that the programs and offerings offered through Project RISE are available via the current circumstances (virtual). Project RISE has worked to create an accessible Programming and Graduation Guide for all school districts and students to utilize as well as the video platforms. The video platforms are recordings of career pathways, tours, and other events such as panel discussions.

The implementation process for these and other Council work includes taking the notes from each meeting and creating a plan of implementation as well as a committee to work with outside of the larger meetings.

The nature of the council's advice and recommendations on economic and job market changes includes a job market update at every meeting from the Workforce Development Board Director of Area 14 and the Athens County Economic Development Council.

As for advice and suggestions for developing relationships with more businesses, they have suggested sharing current partner lists with the Council and a list of potential new partners as well as doing "Call to Actions" for specific projects. The current members can identify where there might be gaps in representation from the business and community organizations.

The Council will monitor the implementation of all programs and practices with a standing agenda item to address the progress and barriers.