

# Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

*JOINT STATEMENTS MUST BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE BY MARCH 1, 2024*

Each business advisory council and its school board shall file a joint statement, not later than the first day of March of each school year, describing how the school district or service center and its business advisory council has fulfilled their responsibilities pursuant to this section and section [3313.82](#) of the Revised Code.

**NAME OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL: SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER, ADAMS AND HIGHLAND COUNTIES BAC**

**PRIMARY CONTACT: BETH JUSTICE, SUPERINTENDENT SOUTHERN OHIO ESC**

**SECONDARY CONTACT: TIM DETTWILLER, DIRECTOR HIGHLAND COUNTY ACCESS**

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

***The Highland County Workforce meetings and BAC meetings were planned on the same days so the members could more easily attend both meetings.***

2. Of goals submitting in your 2024 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being goal accomplished. What goals were you able to accomplish?

**To develop a database of all information needed by the Council to fulfill our mission. 9/10**

***The Council's Data and Research committee is led by the Highland County Economic Development Director. The Director has made available to all members of the Council her access to databases provided by several research entities such as OhioSoutheast. The Director has offered to provide reports from these resources upon request.***

**To provide Workforce Educational opportunities for all potential Highland County employees and businesses. 10 /10**

*The Highland County Commissioners, working through the Economic Development Office have provided a workforce center in Greenfield to provide as needed training for youth and adults wanting to enter the workforce. The Economic Development office Director serves as a member of the Highland County Workforce Leadership Council where she solicits feedback from the Council on possible future uses of the workforce center.*

**To identify and remedy barriers that impede the Council's ability to fulfill our Mission. 5 /10**

*A significant barrier noted during the year was the entrenched school process of placing students into work experience opportunities only during specified scheduling periods. The ACCESS program began meeting monthly with the Councils Work Experience sub-committee to make placing of students more flexible to accommodate a students desire to intern for short periods of time with a business partner any time of the school year.*

**To provide opportunities for all students and prospective employees to intern or job shadow with Highland County businesses. 5 /10**

*The ACCESS program has developed relationships with BestOhio, the Ohio Manufacturing Association, TechSolv, the Highland County Community Fund and Ohio Means Jobs Highland County along with over 100 local business partners to provide paid internship and work based learning opportunities to high school students.*

**To seek out, secure and manage funding used to support the work of the Council. 8/10**

*The ACCESS program submitted a proposal to Challenge.Gov for a Career Z Challenge grant. The submission was selected along with 80 other applicants from over 35 states. As a semi-finalist we are to receive \$10,000 and if chosen as a finalist we could be awarded up to \$100,000.*

***The ACCESS program has also partnered with the Highland County Ohio Means Jobs office. This partnership has brought about the potential for over 50 paid internships paid by OMJ as well as a Youth Case Manager who is working in the schools directly with students to aid them in finding work experiences appropriate for their skills.***

***The ACCESS program sought out grant funding from BestOhio and from the Highland County Community Fund. BestOhio is providing 15 - \$550 intern stipends for students who intern with local Manufacturers. The Highland County Community Fund is providing 5 - \$550 paid intern stipends for Highland County students.***

**To provide relevant, timely and purposeful communication to all stakeholders of the council. 4/10**

***Council members receive a monthly update of all ACCESS program activities during our monthly Council meeting. When meetings were not held an email executive summary was provided to the Council members. Notices for ACCESS program events such as the Manufacturers Summit and MANUFACTURING DAY were provided to the press as well as being placed in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter.***

a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

***The ACCESS program procured TRANSEO software to provide our portal for school personnel, students and business partners to communicate. The portal in its first year was redesigned, had a name change and was acquired by a new owner. These changes as well as the shortcomings of the software program have made implementation and confidence in the program a challenge. The Work Experience team is currently evaluating other portal software options.***

3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the SY24?

***New partnerships acquired during SY24:***

*BestOhio*

*TechSolv*

*Highland County Community Fund*

*Challenge.Gov*

*Paint Creek Fire & EMS*

*Hillsboro City Police Dept.*

*The Patriot House*

*Willey and Son Trucking*

*Ohio Dept of Natural Resources*

*Hangar 6*

*City of Hillsboro*

*McClain Athletics*

*McClain Tech Dept.*

*Fairfield Athletics*

*Lynchburg Elementary*

4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your SY24 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.

***N/A***

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

***The Council and its ACCESS program were recognized for their participation in the Highland County Manufacturers Summit. ACCESS facilitated a 3 high school student panel made up of students who were working in Manufacturing settings. Manufacturers were asked to provide questions to the students about their experiences.***

***The Council and its ACCESS program planned and facilitated the first ever Highland County MANUFACTURERS DAY. On this day over 100 Highland County students toured 8 different Manufacturing facilities. Students were also treated to a luncheon where the Ohio Director of Development was the keynote speaker and students who earned a stipend were awarded their check by their host business partner and stipend sponsor.***