



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

OFFICE OF GRADUATE SUCCESS



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Vision

Ohio students are prepared for success in the real world.



Mission

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce supports Ohio's students, families, and educators to ensure every student gains the knowledge and life skills needed for the future.

EDUCATION PRIORITIES



Literacy: Building a foundation for lifelong success by ensuring every student is reading at or above grade level.



Accelerating Learning: Advancing academic achievement for all students through statewide implementation of high-quality instruction, assessments, and supports.



Student Wellness: Fostering safe and supportive environments where students feel engaged and equipped to reach their full potential.



Workforce Readiness: Preparing students for success in life and careers through real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences.



Organizational Effectiveness: Delivery high-quality services and resources to strengthen Ohio's education community.

WORKFORCE READINESS



Preparing students for success in life and careers through real-world knowledge, skills, and experiences.

OFFICE OF GRADUATE SUCCESS

Dedicated to creating preK-12 linkages to postsecondary and work so that each child has an opportunity to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path.

5 Core Functions



OHIO'S FUTURE FOR CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING



Career and Self-
Exploration Starting in
Middle Grades



High Quality Career
Coaching and Advising



Transition to Meaningful
Post-High School Pathway

WHY CAREER ADVISING MATTERS

Career advising isn't about choosing one career path.



It's about **equipping students** with the tools to understand themselves and the world of work.

- **Self-Discovery and Awareness**
Understanding interests and aptitudes
- **Exploration Opportunities**
Work-based learning, Career-Technical education, mentorship, hands-on experiences
- **Confidence and Skills**
Building the ability to navigate future pathways

CAREER CONNECTIONS: CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

ACTION CHARTER

Purpose:

- Refine Ohio's Career Connections Framework
- Establish comprehensive K–12 career education journeys
- Deliver technical assistance to CTPDs, ESCs, and schools

Why it Matters:

Ohio lacks a standardized system. Students often graduate without a clear plan. This initiative fixes that.

CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

THE ACTION PLAN FOR CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING HAS BEEN ORGANIZED INTO FIVE SUB-PHASES

- Sub-phases are broken down into detailed activities in the plan

Program design Implementation Monitoring

Activities	2025				2026				Key outputs
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
I. Design career connections “framework” and policy requirements / administrative guidance for future-state career education journey									- Career Connections Framework redefined - ODEW aligned on future-state career planning requirements
II. Design tools and resources to enable implementation of career connections requirements									ODEW aligned on supports to provide schools and CTPDs
III. Design data collection and processes for reporting compliance and tracking success									Data requirements and reporting mechanisms finalized
IV. Implement future-state career exploration and planning programming									- Future-state requirements fully established - Technical assistance and other supports stood up
V. Continuously monitor and improve									- Governance for continuous improvement stood up - Stakeholders routinely engaged to support improvements



CAREER CONNECTIONS FRAMEWORK REDESIGN COMMITTEE

Committee Outcomes

- Three-week sprint
- 20 stakeholders: State, regional, community, and school-based partners
- Three intensive whiteboarding sessions
 - Outcomes:
 - ✓ Draft Framework
 - ✓ Draft Definition
 - ✓ Recommendations on defining success across the implementation chain

INITIATIVES ALIGNED TO CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

MIDDLE GRADE CAREER TECH

- Starting July 1, 2026, every school district in Ohio is required to offer middle school Career and Technical Education.
- Currently, there are 211 districts that do not offer any such programs.

STEM

- STEM education is a learner-centered approach to teaching, providing students with a problem-based, transdisciplinary, and personalized learning experience.
- Builds career awareness, exploration, and planning into all learning opportunities.
- Prepares our students for future success through relevant, real-world learning experiences that encourage the development of life skills.

INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS

Current System: Points system

- Each credential is assigned a point value.
- A student must earn twelve points from one career field to fulfill the IRC graduation requirement.

The Department is working with industry and education partners in examining credential offerings and opportunities to improve the system.

Reach out to the industry credentials team at industrycredentials@education.ohio.gov with questions about integrating IRCs into your school

CREDENTIALING PATHWAY TOOLKITS

- Credentials for all, not just for graduation purposes.
- Lead to real employment after graduation.
- Has been implemented in traditional High Schools.
- Linked to many In-Demand occupations.
- This is just the beginning!
- [Credentialing-Toolkits](#)



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STUDENT SUCCESS PLANS

[Section 3313.6020 – Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

- Starts in middle school (Grade 6) to address early intervention for students at-risk of dropping out.
- Focuses on broad academic, social, and career development goals to prevent dropout and foster long-term success post-high school.
- Plans evolve based on student progress and career interests.
- Encourages active participation from families/caregivers. Advisors work with students to align academic and career goals.
- Addresses student success measures and experiential learning needs as part of the student's pathway and may be in concert with a student's IEP.

GRADUATION PLANS

[Section 3313.617 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

- Focuses on grades 9-12 for meeting graduation requirements.
- Specific focus on fulfilling credit, competency, and readiness for graduation.
- Primarily structured to meet graduation requirements.
- Includes families/caregivers. Advisors and school staff work with students to monitor compliance with graduation requirements.
- May incorporate IEPs or competency-based credits if aligned with graduation requirements.

INTEGRATED STUDENT SUCCESS AND GRAD PLANS

WHY?

Early career and academic advising through student success plans beginning in middle school ensures all students have access to personalized pathways that integrate their academic, career, and personal goals.

INTEGRATED STUDENT SUCCESS AND GRAD PLANS

- Aligning student success plans with graduation plans creates a seamless framework that helps every student meet credit, competency, and readiness requirements.
- Prepares students for postsecondary success.

OHIO MEANS JOBS K-12



Job and Family Services and Monster Government Solutions contracted with StartSOLE to integrate the PortfoliOH work-based learning tracker into the OhioMeansJobs K-12 Student Profile.

OHIOMEANSJOBS K-12



Progress in aligning with the Department of Education and Workforce's overarching goal of equipping Ohio K-12 students with high-quality career exploration and planning experiences.

- Streamlines documenting work-based learning
- Empowers students to take charge of their future
- Provides students with tangible evidence of their skills and achievements, preparing them for the future job market

UPCOMING PORTFOLIO PD SESSIONS



Sessions available September 16



CAREER AWARENESS AND EXPLORATION FUNDS

FY25 \$10 per student / FY26-27 \$3 per student - CTPD

Funds may be used to:

- Deliver career awareness programs to K-12 students.
- Provide a consistent curriculum throughout primary and secondary education.
- Assist teachers with implementing the career development curriculum.
- Develop a career plan for each student, maintained throughout their education.
- Offer activities like career fairs, hands-on experiences, and job shadowing for all grade levels.
- Provide mentorship opportunities for learning about careers and workforce skills.



INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

Waiver Program that allows district to institute innovative programs that they would otherwise be prohibited from doing.



Innovative Education Pilot Programs

Guidance and Instructions for Submitting Exemption Requests for the 2026-2027 School Year

Ohio is excited about the opportunity to support Ohio school districts, educational service centers and nonpublic schools that are interested in exploring innovative learning approaches. The intention of the exemption is to provide flexibility to schools to use innovative, and yet still rigorous, instructional approaches that may be more compatible with the educational programs or objectives of the applicants. If approved, an exemption allows the district, school or ESC to implement the innovative instructional approaches outlined in the application.

The application window is September 15, 2025 through November 1, 2025. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m.

Please email IEPP@education.ohio.gov with questions about the program.

RESOURCES

- » [OAC 3301-46-01](#)
- » Application and Evaluation Rubric - updated version will be posted September 15
- » To attend an informational webinar on September 24 from 2-3 p.m., please fill out the [registration form](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS

IEPP Application

- Cover page
- Summary of project: No more than five pages
- Written consent of the teachers' employee representative (if applicable)



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REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

CAREER PATHWAY SUPPORT NETWORKS

\$4 million/year competitive grants across each JobsOhio region

Regional Impact

Every JobsOhio region will have a lead entity responsible for deploying resources, professional learning, and support tools across districts

These hubs will enable scalability and parity of access to career pathways and advising models tailored to the needs of the local labor market.

CAREER PATHWAY SUPPORT NETWORKS AND CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

Key Goals:

- ✓ Expand access to middle grade CTE (Grades 7–10)
- ✓ Deliver high-quality career mentoring and advising
- ✓ Align programs with workforce demand
- ✓ Build strong school–business–community partnerships
- ✓ Foster cross-sector collaboration among:
 - K–12 districts
 - Postsecondary institutions
 - Workforce and economic development agencies
 - Employers and industry leaders

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Section 3301.85 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Higher Education, and Children and Youth are forming regional collaboratives to enhance educational attainment and economic mobility. These initiatives aim to drive growth by raising awareness, encouraging exploration, and providing work-based learning opportunities in high-demand sectors, ultimately filling talent pipeline gaps and increasing postsecondary credentials and skills in Ohio.

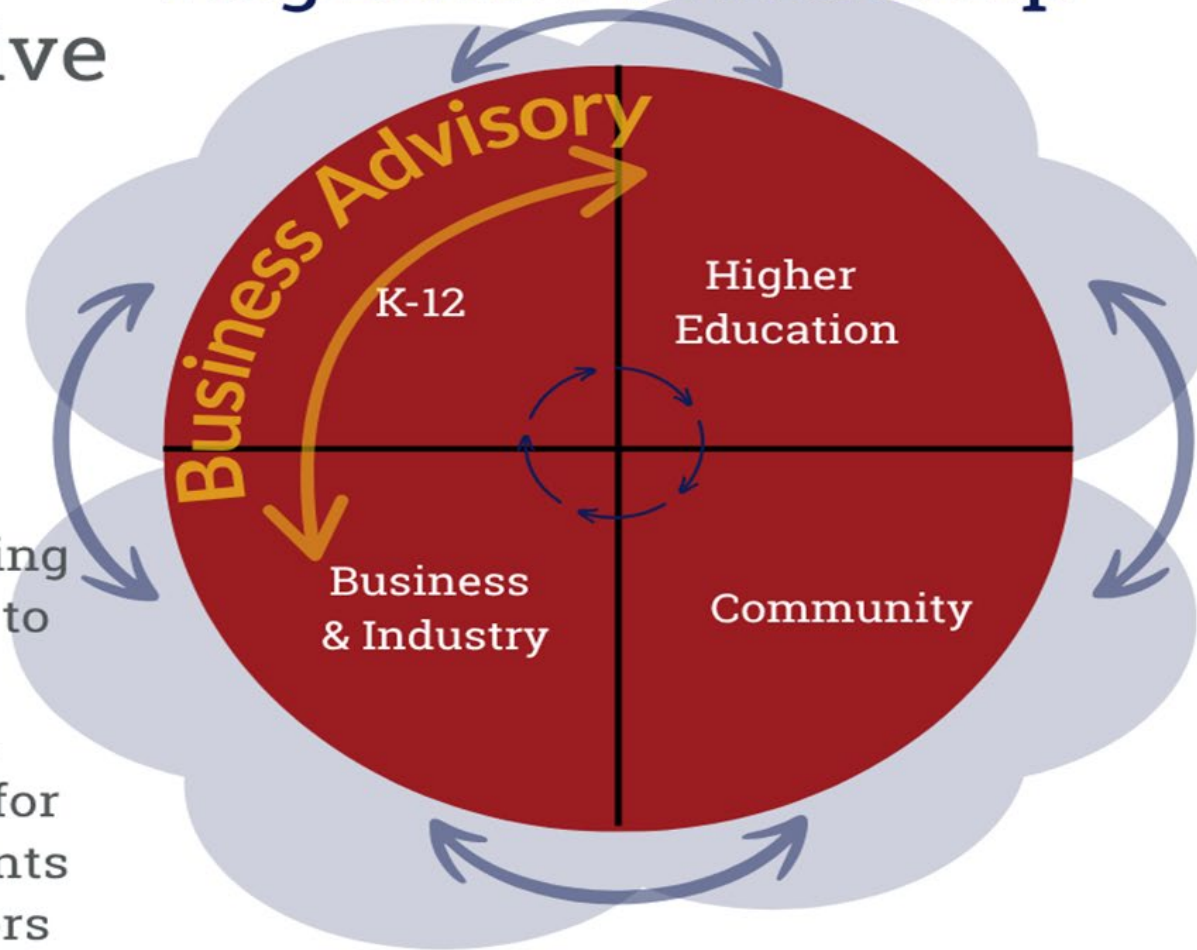
Key Functions:

- **Bring Together Regional Cross-Sector Partners:** Formulate a unified vision and strategy to tackle urgent issues related to academic success and economic growth.
- **Coordinate Resource Alignment:** Spearhead a cohesive investment strategy involving public, private, and philanthropic sectors to implement and expand effective approaches throughout the educational continuum.

Collaborative Vision

Regional Partnership

Regional Partnerships:
Focused on building
a larger pipeline to
serving as a
connector and
capacity builder for
supporting students
through all sectors

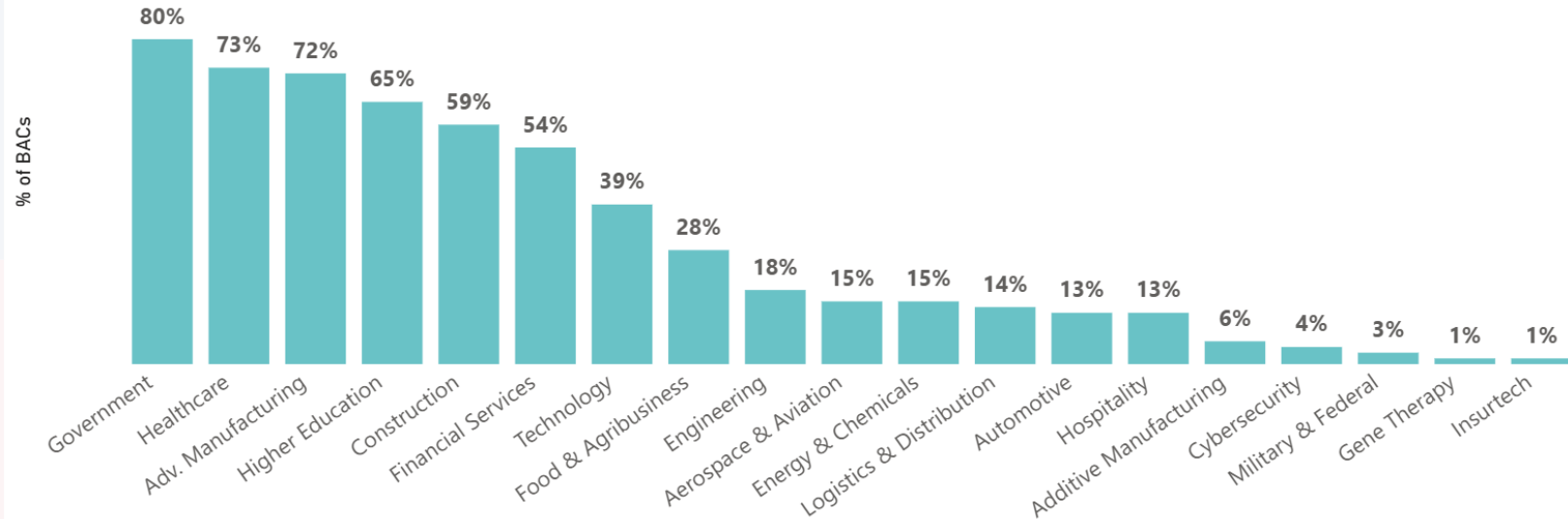
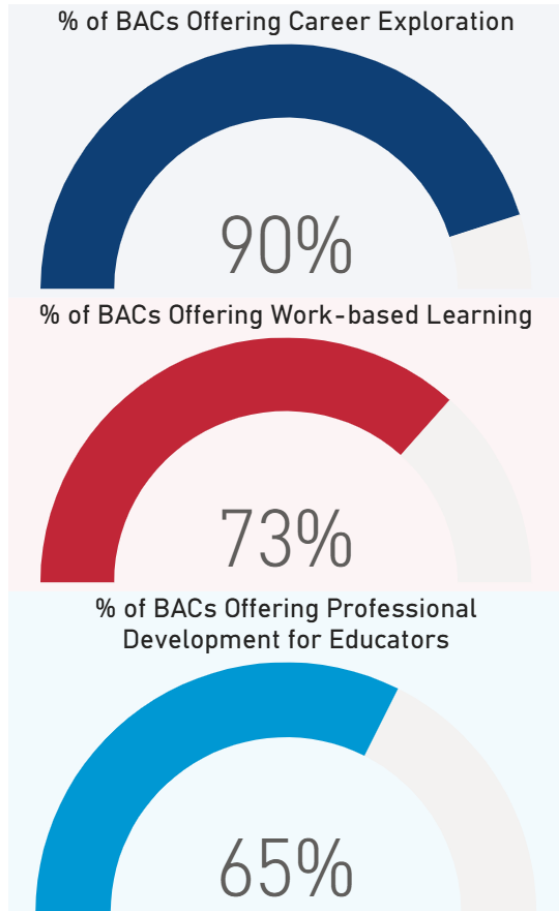


BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

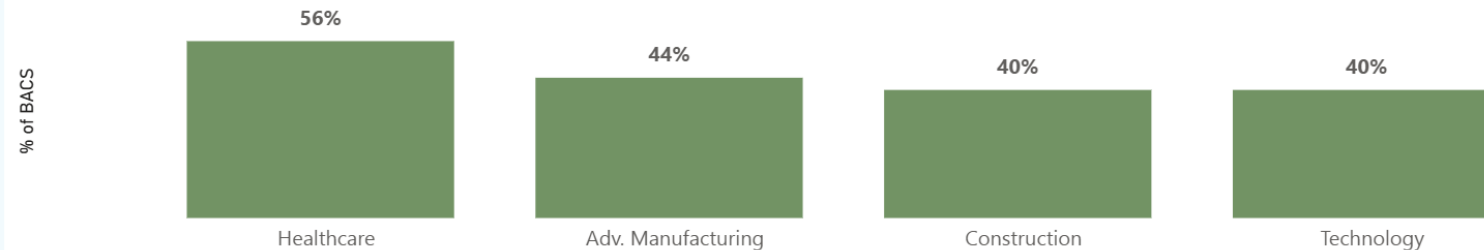
[Ohio Revised Code 3313.82](#)

- Connecting Education and Business
- Adds relevance and insight on industry specific skills and alignment with curriculum
- Opportunity to broaden students' and educators knowledge of career fields and competencies
- Provides opportunities for CTE and Non-CTE students

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS THROUGHOUT THE STATE



Most Common Industries of Work-based Learning in Region



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BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCILS

- All BAC plans and addendums due September 30th.
- Councils are strongly advised to use the template posted on the BAC website.
- Office Hours posted on website or Contact Michelle.Washington@education.ohio.gov for technical assistance.
- Resources:
- [Business Advisory Council Data Dashboard](#)
- [Business Advisory Council Website](#)



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SUPPORTS AND CONNECTION

College Credit Plus

General Updates (September 2025)

- **Additional application period:** Applications for *next spring term only* are now open and will close **November 1 @ 5pm**.
 - *Nonpublic and Homeschool:* May apply for funding if they did not apply for the April 1 deadline.
 - *Public:* May submit Intent to Participate for spring term only.

Coming Up Soon

- Stop into [Graduation Office Hours](#) (biweekly on Fridays) or [School Counselor Meetup](#) on CCP (11/6 @ 11am). Both held virtually.
- Say hello at [OSCA](#), [OADEP](#), or [Aim Hire](#) conferences!
- Keep an eye out for future website updates, surveys, facilitations, info sessions, and technical assistance opportunities

DEW CCP Team



[Nick Klein](#)
College Credit Plus
Administrator



[Travis Taylor](#)
Graduation & College in HS
Administrator

K-12 or CTE question?

DEW mailbox: ccp@education.ohio.gov

Direct: Nicholas.Klein@education.ohio.gov

Higher education question?

ODHE mailbox: ccp@highered.ohio.gov

NEXT STEPS

WHAT'S NEXT



Build

Build capacity



Drive

Drive K–12
implementation of
new framework



Align

Align with local
industry needs



Support

Support credential
and advising goals

CONTACT INFORMATION



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QUESTIONS?

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



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