2025-2026 Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

Southwest Regional Business Advisory Council

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 (BAC):
Southwest Regional Business Advisory Council (SRBAC)

Primary Contact:

Diane Xander, Superintendent
Polaris Career Center

Secondary Contact:

Doug Miller, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement
Polaris Career Center

1. Has there been any change in the structure or leadership of your Business Advisory Council since you submitted your plan for this academic year? If yes, please provide details.

There have been no changes to our structure or leadership.

2. Of goals submitted in your 2025-2026 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being fully accomplished…

10 - We accomplished all the goals we set out to achieve in 2025-2026.

3. What goals were you able to accomplish?

<u>Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers</u>

Initiative 1 - Polaris Advisory Councils

Department of Education & Workforce

• Local Data: Served 100% of Polaris program pathways and Advisory Council members

Initiative 2 – Employability Seminar: Train the Trainer

• Local Data: Served 100% of all referrals from each district.

Initiative 3 – Career Development Grade 4-8

Local Data: Served nearly 2,000 students in all six school districts - Berea City Schools, Brooklyn City Schools, Fairview Park City Schools, North Olmsted City Schools, Olmsted Falls City Schools, and Strongsville City Schools. Programs included Explorer Club, Camp Discovery, Career Quest and BuildHER.

Initiative 4 – Career Development Grades K-3

Local Data: Served more than 3,000 students in all six school districts. Programs included 1st grade Career Exploration Activity Book, Career Kits (1st year rollout), Career Talks, Career Day at Falls Lenox and the Polaris 50th Anniversary Open House and Trick-or-Trade Event.

Build Partnerships

Initiative 1 – Industry Driven Trade Fairs
• Local Data**:** 100% of all Polaris students participated in the employability classes, resume writing and mock interviews to prepare for heavy trades and medical trade fairs.

Initiative 2 – Senior Connections
• **Local Data:** Associate school counselors helped identify students. We also mailed directly to households for event promotion. 48 students attended the official event.

Coordinate Experiences

Initiative 1 – Student Internships – Workforce Development (WBL)
• Local Data**:** Berea City Schools, Brooklyn City Schools, Fairview Park City Schools, North Olmsted City Schools, Olmsted Falls City Schools, and Strongsville City Schools. A record number of students participated in internship experiences. 90% of students participated in simulated work-based learning experiences.

Initiative 2 – Development for Students with Special Needs
• Local Data**:** Students served in the Berea City Schools, Brooklyn City Schools, Fairview Park City Schools, North Olmsted City Schools, Olmsted Falls City Schools, and Strongsville City Schools. 100% of the students referred by their instructions to Job Development were employed. In addition, 100% of Polaris Special Admission programs have simulated work-based learning agreements with local industry partners.

4. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

We didn't experience any major challenges implementing our goals other than balancing these activities with normal school day schedules.

5. What new partnerships has your Business Advisory Council formed for the 2025-2026 school year? Please list any new business partners, organizations, or community stakeholders that have been added.

We added 31 new SRBAC members in 2025-2026 and served over 5,000 young people in grades K-12. We also launched a successful Certified Nursing Assistant: Earn & Learn program with one of our key employer partners, O'Neill Healthcare.

6. Have you added or removed any goals from your 2025-2026 Business Advisory Council Plan? If so, please provide specific details on these changes.

N/A

7. Has your Business Advisory Council received any media coverage or participated in any case studies during this school year? If yes, please provide details on the coverage and the focus of any case studies.

We didn't receive media coverage, but we regularly highlighted our efforts on Polaris social media platforms and in district communications. In addition, we attended and presented at the 2025 BAC Townhall session in Columbus. This presentation featured members of our administrative team along with select business and community partners.

JOINT STATEMENTS SHOULD BE FILED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD AND AVAILABLE EITHER ON YOUR BAC WEBSITE, ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OR OTHER COMMUNICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS. THERE IS NO NEED TO UPLOAD IN OHID. JOINT STATEMENTS MAY BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BUSINESSADVISORYCOUNCIL@EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV.