



“Leading for Educational Excellence”

2026 Joint Statement Template for Business Advisory Councils
Joint Statements must be made publicly available by March 1, 2026

Name of Business Advisory Council: Trumbull County ESC Business Advisory Council

Primary Contact: Dr. Marino, Superintendent, Trumbull County Educational Service Center, 6000 Youngstown Warren Road, Niles, Ohio 44446, robert.marino@trumbullesc.org, 330-505-2800.

Secondary Contact: Denise Holloway, BAC Council Manager, C&I Supervisor Workforce Development, Trumbull County Educational Service Center, 6000 Youngstown Warren Road, Niles, Ohio 44446, denise.holloway@trumbullesc.org, 330-505-2818.

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

Since the plan was submitted for this academic year, there have been *no changes* to the previously submitted leadership structure. However, compared to the prior school year, there has been a change in leadership at the Trumbull County Educational Service Center. Dr. Robert Marino now serves as the primary point of contact for the BAC, and Denise Holloway, Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction, and Workforce Development, serves as the secondary point of contact.

There has also been a change to the structure of the BAC. The council has been expanded to include multiple industries that align with the ESC’s workforce development and career-readiness goals, ensuring broader representation and stronger connections between education and regional workforce needs.

2. Of the goals submitted in your 2026 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the goal accomplished. What goals were you able to accomplish?

Goal 1: Foster ongoing, dynamic communication between schools, businesses, and community stakeholders.

Rating Scale: 8 - ongoing

Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships between the business sector and the education community to align student learning with workforce needs.

Rating Scale: 8 - ongoing

Goal 3: Promote cost-effective strategies that preserve and enhance high standards of educational excellence.

Rating Scale: 7 - ongoing

Goal 4: Identify and pursue opportunities to increase funding and resources for schools.

Rating Scale: 7 - ongoing

Goal 5: Contribute to initiatives that enhance the overall quality of life in Trumbull County.

Rating Scale: 6 - ongoing

Comments:

The BAC has taken intentional steps to advance the Trumbull County Educational Service Center's goals of strengthening workforce readiness, expanding industry partnerships, and building educator capacity across multiple career pathways. Through this work, our initiatives have increased regional awareness of in-demand industries, expanded collaboration with business partners, and supported school districts in preparing students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers.

Subcommittees have been created to further support the work of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) by identifying barriers, gaps, and workforce deficits across the region in order to strengthen and expand countywide workforce development efforts. These subcommittees are chaired collaboratively by district superintendents and local industry leaders, ensuring both educational and employer perspectives guide the council's priorities and action steps.

Raising Awareness & Building Capacity:

The TCESC successfully hosted its second Teacher Manufacturing & Industry Boot Camp, a professional learning event that brought together educators and industry leaders. These sessions featured industry speakers, hands-on demonstrations, and collaborative discussions designed to deepen understanding of emerging workforce needs and help districts align instruction with regional career opportunities.

Highlighting Workforce Expectations & Best Practices:

The ESC is further expanding pre-apprenticeships and alternative pathways for Trumbull County schools through the development of four additional pre-apprenticeship programs in Information Technology, Healthcare, Hospitality & Tourism, and Finance, in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Partnership.

The BAC has facilitated ongoing conversations focused on industry standards, workforce expectations, and best practices for preparing students for regional employment opportunities. Participation in statewide initiatives and professional networks ensures that our approach remains aligned with current trends and the needs of employers.

Strengthening Collaboration & Workforce Connections:

We continue to expand opportunities for meaningful collaboration between educators and business partners. By hosting meetings at partner locations and integrating business tours into professional development experiences such as the Teacher Bootcamp, the BAC ensures that educators gain firsthand insight into the skills, tools, and competencies students need to succeed.

Maintaining Cost-Effective Practices:

Aligned with TCESC's commitment to fiscal responsibility, the BAC prioritizes cost-effective strategies by maximizing the use of existing district and ESC resources. This includes leveraging existing facilities, materials, professional networks, and district expertise to support workforce initiatives without creating unnecessary financial burdens for participating schools.

3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the SY26?

For SY26, the TCESC Business Advisory Council will continue to add new business partners and will continue to expand its network in alignment with the sixteen career clusters. These partnerships are intentionally selected to support district workforce goals and reflect student needs and interests identified through testing, career exploration activities, and ongoing data collection. This strategic growth ensures that our BAC continues to connect students with relevant industries and high-demand career pathways across Trumbull County.

Through our Business Advisory Council (BAC) partnerships, industry leaders Novelis and Starr Manufacturing will host student site visits for participating school districts. These immersive experiences will provide students with firsthand exposure to modern manufacturing environments, advanced technologies, and high-demand career pathways within our region.

During the visits, students will engage with industry professionals, observe real-world production processes, and gain insight into the skills, credentials, and career trajectories available in manufacturing. These opportunities are designed to increase awareness of local workforce needs, strengthen school-to-industry connections, and inspire students to pursue high-skill, high-wage career pathways within the manufacturing sector.

Local business partners The Grand Resort and Cockeye Creamery, two valued Trumbull County employers, are partnering with the Trumbull County Educational Service Center (TCESC) to expand pre-apprenticeship opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in Hospitality & Tourism. Through this collaboration, students will gain hands-on exposure to the hospitality industry, including customer service, operations, culinary services, event management, and business fundamentals.

These partnerships will provide students with meaningful career-connected learning experiences such as site visits, mentorship, job shadowing, and potential employment opportunities.

4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your SY26 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.

We have not removed any goals from our SY25 Business Advisory Council Plan; however, we have strengthened and expanded them. In previous academic years, the TCESC BAC operated in alignment with the Trumbull County WIA Board. To better ensure the success of our students this year, the BAC has refined its goals to more intentionally support district workforce priorities, enhance alignment with the sixteen career clusters, and deepen partnerships that directly connect students to high-demand career pathways. These enhancements build on the original goals while increasing their impact and relevance for schools and students.

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

Teacher Manufacturing and Industry Bootcamp (Professional Development)

The Trumbull County ESC hosted its second Teacher Manufacturing and Industry Bootcamp, and it was a tremendous success. Over the course of five days, educators from across the county participated in an immersive professional development experience designed to strengthen career readiness and align instruction with regional workforce needs.

Participants analyzed student development and aptitude profile data, heard from state leaders about current job market trends and in-demand career fields, and engaged in meaningful networking with local business owners representing multiple industries. Educators also toured six Trumbull County businesses, gaining firsthand insight into workplace expectations, high-demand skills, and the opportunities available to students.

On the final day of the Bootcamp, participants collaborated to develop practical resources, curriculum enhancements, and implementation plans to support and expand career development programming in their schools for the upcoming academic year. This initiative marks a significant step in strengthening educator-industry partnerships and advancing career readiness across Trumbull County.

Industry Site Visits and Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities

HOWMET Aerospace and Design hosted a one-day industry site visit for seven Trumbull County school districts, providing more than 65 students with an immersive look into manufacturing careers. These students, who are actively pursuing their Drone Pre-Apprenticeship certification in their home schools, had the opportunity to tour multiple departments, observe advanced technologies in action, and engage directly with industry professionals. Throughout the visit, students learned about career pathways, essential skills,

and future workforce opportunities within the manufacturing sector. This experience not only encouraged interest in high-demand industries but also strengthened the connection between pre-apprenticeship training and real-world career exploration.

[Photo](#), [Photo](#)

Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Fair

Students from 20 Trumbull County school districts participated in the Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Expo, held at the Canfield Fairgrounds, where they experienced an in-depth, real-world introduction to careers in the skilled trades. There is a strong connection between participation in the expo and the foundation it serves for students interested in pursuing apprenticeships, technical training, and long-term careers in the skilled trades. Trumbull County students who attended the event are enrolled in the Trumbull County Education Extension Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

[WKBN Local News](#), [Photo](#), [Photo](#)

Middle School Career Connections & Leadership

Middle school students across Trumbull County are actively engaged in career exploration opportunities that spark interest and build a foundation for future aspirations. At Niles Middle School, eighth graders work closely with school and city officials to learn about their community environment, identify local needs, and develop problem-solving skills.

The TCESC is supporting NMS in the implementation of Lead4Change, a leadership and service-learning program that all eighth graders will complete. Upon finishing the course, students will earn three industry-recognized credentials and will present their projects by interviewing city and school leaders to propose meaningful solutions.

Seventh graders across Trumbull County begin measuring their aptitudes and interests through YouScience, helping them understand their natural strengths and potential career directions. Career exploration continues as eighth graders visit high school elective options and tour the Trumbull County Career & Technical Center, allowing them to observe real-world careers and prepare for the transition to high school pathways.

[Photo](#)

Collaboration and Partnership with Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley (Biztown)

Junior Achievement and the TCESC Business Advisory Council are partnering to expand career awareness for students in grades 4–6 by providing meaningful exposure to career pathways through participation in JA BizTown. Through this collaboration, students will participate in engaging, hands-on learning experiences that simulate real-world careers, financial responsibility, and community leadership.

Many of our BAC members are active participants in the JA BizTown storefronts, giving students the opportunity to interact with local businesses they recognize from their own community. The TCESC BAC will work with districts to align BizTown participation with career readiness goals, support teachers in preparing students for the experience, and strengthen connections between classroom learning and local workforce needs.

[Photo](#), [Photo](#)