



Business Advisory Council Initiative

Aligning a Shared Curriculum and Language with Employer Engagement, Student Voice, and Career-Connected Learning

The WCBAC is working to strengthen the alignment between education and workforce needs by ensuring students graduate with the professional skills employers expect. During a discovery session with regional business leaders, employers consistently shared that many graduates enter the workforce not fully prepared for workplace expectations, citing gaps in critical employability skills such as communication, professionalism, teamwork, accountability, and work ethic. This feedback created a clear call to action for educators and employers to collaborate on a more intentional approach to preparing students for career success.

In response, the WCBAC launched a collaborative effort to establish a shared curriculum and common language around employability skills across participating districts. The council reviewed the competencies of the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal and the Junior Achievement Business Communications curriculum—both of which provide structured opportunities for students to build the workplace behaviors and skills employers identify as essential. When implemented effectively, these frameworks help ensure students graduate with the foundational employability skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

Employer Engagement

Employer input was the catalyst for this initiative. By participating in the discovery session and sharing candid feedback about workforce readiness, industry partners directly shaped the development of the shared curriculum strategy. Employers will continue to play an active role by validating competencies, reinforcing expectations for professional skills, and engaging with students through mentorship, work-based learning opportunities, and advisory participation. Their involvement ensures the curriculum remains aligned with real workplace expectations and evolving industry needs.

Student Voice

Student success and growth remain central to this initiative. By embedding employability skill development within existing coursework, students gain opportunities to practice and demonstrate these competencies in meaningful ways. Students will be able to reflect on their progress and earn credentials that signal their readiness to employers. This approach empowers students to take ownership of their career preparation and better understand the expectations of the workplace.

Career-Connected Learning

Integrating the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal competencies and Junior Achievement Business Communications curriculum into district programming strengthens career-connected learning by linking classroom instruction with real-world workforce expectations. Students develop practical professional skills such as communication, teamwork, and responsibility that are essential across industries. Establishing a shared framework across districts also promotes collaboration among educators, creating a consistent system that prepares students for internships, job shadows, and other work-based learning experiences.

Building a Countywide Workforce-Ready Culture

By establishing a shared curriculum and common language around employability skills, the WCBAC is helping create a cohesive, countywide approach to workforce readiness. Aligning these efforts with the quality practices of employer engagement, student voice, and career-connected learning ensures that students are not only academically prepared, but also equipped with the professional skills needed to succeed in the workplace. This collaborative initiative represents an important step toward building a stronger talent pipeline and supporting the long-term economic vitality of the region.