



The Business Advisory Council

I participated in two significant state-level conversations this month that directly align with our efforts in career-connected learning and workforce development:

- **OC3 Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee Meeting (3/27)**
- **Ohio Excels Policy Meeting** focused on: Ohio's Vision for Career Connected Learning and Career Pathways in 2025 and Beyond."A central message that resonated from both meetings was the importance of having a dedicated role within each district focused solely on building and sustaining career-connected learning pathways: *"Every district should have one person whose only job it is to wake up every day and do this work"*

Ohio's Vision: Five Strategic Pillars These developments offer strong alignment with the BAC's goals and reinforce our commitment to building sustainable, locally-driven pathways that prepare students for success.

1. **Middle School Career Exploration**
 - Require explicit career exploration and coaching courses in middle school.
 - Develop a state framework for high-quality career coaching.
 - Evaluate the impact of current career awareness and exploration funding.
2. **Work-Based Learning**
 - Expand programs like the High School Tech Internship to additional career clusters.
 - Increase incentive funding for employers who participate in these experiences.
3. **In-Demand Credentials**
 - Replace the current credential point system with a three-tiered model based on industry value and student outcomes.
 - Expand IWIP (Incentive for Workforce Innovation and Progress) funding to ensure schools receive full incentive payments.
4. **Workforce Outcomes**
 - Create a statewide data dashboard focused on workforce outcomes and return on investment (ROI).
 - Form a coalition to oversee this system.
 - Develop a Local Report Card (LRC) metric so districts prioritize these experiences.
5. **Expanding Career Technical Education**
 - Phase out the middle school waiver.
 - Clearly define the role of Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs) to ensure equitable access to CTE across the state.

The next Business Advisory Council meeting will be on 4/23/25 at Ag Credit in Mt. Gilead. The focus will be on Morrow County Economic Development and TechCorp's free programs to help schools increase exposure to technical careers. An optional session from 12:30-1:00 p.m. will focus on Tech Corp K-12 free curriculum to help students develop STEM skills.