

Logan County Business Advisory Council – Joint Statement – 3/1/2019
A Subcommittee of the Logan County Collaborative

During the 2018-2019 school year, the following school districts have participated under the leadership of the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center in the Logan Area Business Advisory Council:

- Bellefontaine City Schools
- Ben Logan Local School District
- Indian Lake Local School District
- Ohio Hi Point Career Center
- Riverside Local School District

The Logan County Business Advisory Council is made up of the following representative businesses and agencies:

- AGC Automotive
- Belletech
- Logan County Chamber of Commerce
- Logan County United Way
- Honda of America
- Majestic Plastics
- Mary Rutan Hospital

The mission of the Logan County Business Advisory Council is to create partnerships between Logan County businesses, Logan County/City schools, and the educational service center in order to enhance communication between the business and educational community. The partnership will augment educational opportunities for students in the community by providing information, instruction, and training that will help to establish and sustain a talented workforce in Logan County.

The purpose of the Logan County Business Advisory Council is to:

- To foster cooperation among schools, businesses, and the communities they serve
- To ensure that the work of educators aligns with the needs of businesses
- To enhance awareness of the labor market, promote work-based experiences within businesses, and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities

The role of the Logan County Business Advisory Council is to:

- To advise local school districts on changes in the economy and job market and the area in which future jobs are most likely to be available
- To advocate for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills
- To aid and support local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations, and educators

The general goals of the Logan County Business Advisory Council are:

- To collaboratively determine and delineate needed employment skills
- To collaboratively develop curriculum necessary to instill those skills in Logan County students
- To advise local boards of education on the economy, the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available
- To nurture relationships and enhance communication among business, labor, and education personnel

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Logan County Business Advisory Council has met (or will meet) several times, the dates for those meetings are listed below:

- September 24th, 2018
- January 28th, 2019
- March 25th, 2019
- May 20th, 2019
- July 22nd, 2019

Meetings that have taken place during the 2018-2019 school year have focused on the following:

- Developing and fostering collaboration and communication between the business and educational communities
- Determining the needs of employers in Logan County
- Determining workplace skills that are lacking in today's high school graduates and discussing strategies to improve those skills as students move through grades K-12
- Facilitating discussions regarding strategies for informing students and families about workforce and career opportunities available for students in Logan County
- Planning and executing career day, career expo, mock interviews, internships, job shadowing, and other ways to connect employers and students
- Helping students find their passion and make decisions about next steps after high school
- Determining the types of data needed to inform the council's efforts to prepare students for future employment in Logan County to meet anticipated economic and job market changes

Several events, activities, and initiatives have been discussed, planned, executed as a result of the council's interactions during the 2018-2019 school year.

- Career Day – October 25, 2018
 - Career Day allows students in Logan County middle schools to explore possible career options before entering into high school. Exploring career options before high school allows students to set an educational pathway that will provide them with a competitive advantage in the job market upon graduation. The Career Day took place in the gymnasium at Riverside Local Schools. During the day, students were exposed to dozens of potential career options.

- Logan County Entrepreneur Tour – February 14, 2019
 - Students from Logan County schools had the opportunity to tour local businesses and hear brief presentations from each of the business owners. Participating businesses included Tangers, Ragnar Fitness, P. Alan Properties, Peachtree, and Peak Performance.
- Logan County Career Expo – March 14, 2019
 - The Career Expo provides Logan County high school students with an opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from dozens of local area businesses. The expo took place in the gymnasium at Indian Lake High School. Students had the opportunity to investigate possible career and summer job opportunities. Students who pre-registered had the opportunity to formally interview with prospective employers.
- Speaker Series Program – Ongoing throughout the school year
 - The Logan County Speaker Series Program consists of school districts inviting business owners and representatives to provide brief presentations geared to expose students to the numerous and diverse career options available to students in Logan County.
- Mock Interviews – Planning is currently underway
 - Mock interviews will be geared toward juniors and seniors in high school. These interviews will provide students with experience in the interview process and employers with exposure to potential future employees. Employers are asked to take time to provide constructive feedback to students.
- Job Shadowing – Planning is currently underway

For the remaining meetings in 2019 and looking forward to 2020, the council will create strategies centered around the following:

1. Prepare: How do we better prepare students to be successful in the workforce?
2. Inform: How do we better inform students and their parents so that families can make informed decisions about graduation and career pathways for students?
3. Connect: How do we better facilitate connections between local employers and students who plan to enter the workforce upon graduation?
4. Honor: How do we do a better job of marketing workforce careers and honoring those students who choose to serve their community as part of the local workforce?