

Licking Regional Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) Joint Statement
with the
Licking Regional Educational Service Center (LRESC) Governing Board
February, 2025

As stated in the guidance documents produced by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) in response to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3313.174 in 1995 (renumbered to 3313.82 in 2009) where such guidance reads:

Business advisory council responsibilities under 3313.82 include advising and providing recommendations on:

- *the delineation of employment skills and the development of curriculum to instill these skills;*
- *changes in the economy and in the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available;*
- *suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel.*

And as further stated in the guidance document from ODE in response to the recent updates to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) in the recently enacted House Bill 49 and now in ORC Section 3313.821, additional requirements for business advisory councils include the following:

- *Each business advisory council must establish a plan on how the business advisory council will advise the board on the requirements listed in ORC Section 3313.82.*
- *Each business advisory council must file the plan with the Department of Education. Coordination will occur through the OH:ID portal.*
- *Each business advisory council must meet at least quarterly.*
- *Each business advisory council and its school board of education must publish a joint statement, no later than the first day of March of each school year, describing how the school district or ESC and its business advisory council has fulfilled their responsibilities.*

The Licking Regional Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) and the Licking Regional Educational Service Center (LRESC) jointly publish the following statement on the BCAC's progress and activities for FY24:

Licking Regional BCAC and ESC Governing Board Joint Statement

Progress on Meeting Requirements and Responsibilities for Business Advisory Councils:

You will see below that we are addressing the three responsibilities listed above through work on our goals. We incorporated employment skills and curriculum into goals two, three, and four. Economy changes and job market are addressed through goals three and four. Finally, we are addressing business and education relationships by maintaining the strong relationships that have existed in Licking County for many years in goals one, two, four and five. Further, we are incorporating a suggestion from the guidance document into goal three concerning the OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal.

The LRESC Governing Board formally appointed members, including a representative from the Board, to the Licking County BCAC in their September, regular meeting. The Licking County BCAC will meet January 14, 2025, March 11, 2025, and May 13, 2025, September 9, 2025, November 11, 2025, January 13, 2026, March 10, 2026, and May 12, 2026. This Joint Statement, in its entirety, will be submitted for approval in February at the Governing Board meeting of the Licking Regional ESC.

In August of 2024, the Licking Regional BCAC submitted a plan that was subsequently approved by the LRESC Governing Board and the Boards of the ten school districts aligned with the LCESC. In that plan were the following goals:

- **#1 Create a Business/Industry Directory**
- **#2 Maintain and grow the existing relationships among business, labor, and education personnel in the Licking County community.**
- **#3 Use the Career Pathways Tool Kit Resources**
- **#4 Maintain and Grow Sub Committee's work within BCAC**
- **#5 Explore providing a local site supporting Junior Achievement's Biz Town and Finance Park**
- **#6 Support the Career Xpress conference for high school juniors**

Progress on Goal #1, Creating a Business/Industry Directory:

The Licking County Chamber of Commerce lead this initiative and a directory was created and constantly updated via Google Form. Growing the business/industry partner's involvement in the BCAC is ongoing.

Progress on Goal #2, Maintain and Grow Relationships:

Current business/industry partners are sharing BCAC events/activities with their circle of contacts. The Licking County Chamber of Commerce continues to send communications to Chamber members on the BCAC's behalf. More companies are joining the BCAC. A bi-annual Educator Business After Hours was planned for February 20, 2025.

Progress on Goal #3, Use Career Pathways Tool Kit Resources

The School Partnership subcommittee within the BCAC are using the Tool Kits with after-school programming at various high schools and middle schools. OMJ launched their first non-summer mobile crew and the tool kits are used to promote career pathways and work experiences. The C-TEC Manufacturing Day exposed students from Lakewood HS to three different labs that connect to the Tool Kit Resources. C-TEC and OMJ are working with students in various districts regarding In-demand jobs that support the Tool Kit Resources. Lunch-time events at Newark HS connect students to In-demand jobs that support the Tool Kit Resources.

Progress on Goal #4, Maintain and Grow Sub Committees within BCAC

Sub Committees are formed and continue to grow as membership in the BCAC grows. Monthly subcommittee work is reported out at the BCAC bi-monthly meetings.

Progress on Goal #5, Explore providing a local site supporting Junior Achievement's Biz Town and Finance Park.

Junior Achievement Columbus recently located Biz Town and Finance Park in the Newark Schools area on Granville Rd. Local students in 5th and 8th grades are participating in this hands-on curriculum.

Progress on Goal #6, Support the Career Xpress conference for high school juniors

Sub Committees are formed and session topics, key note speakers, career fair/college fair participates are being secured for the March 11, 12, 13, 2025 conference. Logistics are organized and coordinated for this OSU/COTC location.

In closing, the LRESC Governing Board and the Licking Regional BCAC are maintaining and continuing a historically productive relationship that has benefited children and the business community for years. Our plan is to maintain and grow this relationship through the coming years to help Licking County and its residents thrive.

Description of current activities:

Project Prepare (supporting the Four Career Pathways)

Sponsored and run by C-TEC of Licking County and supported by the Licking County BCAC and the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, this program provides Licking County students in the 11th grade and some 12th graders exposure to career opportunities in Licking County and the surrounding area with the four career pathways determined from the Needs Assessment. Students travel to area businesses and companies gaining knowledge about the type of career opportunities available at each site. The Career Pathways Toolkits support this career exploration opportunity.

The Works “Stem Over Lunch”

Once a year, The Works conducts STEM Over Lunch where educators and business leaders are invited to hear a presentation concerning STEM topics related to area businesses and potential careers for our children. The event includes discussions and collaboration between and among all participants as we work to create opportunities for the youth in Licking County and the surrounding area.

Junior Achievement (Our Region)

Each year Licking County businesses are asked to support the Junior Achievement Program provided to students in the fourth grade. Students are exposed to the free enterprise system through a five-day lesson cycle.

Educators in the Workplace

Sponsored by school districts and businesses, teachers can participate in a summer learning experience where they are immersed into a Licking County business for a period of time. Teachers will reflect their time at the business/industry, and will complete two assignments that support student engagement. Teachers receive a stipend, contact hours, and an opportunity to earn college credit for their participation.

Project Search

This program provides intensive transition services for senior students with special needs. Students are placed in a job site and provided mentoring and instructional support during the year-long program. Licking Memorial Health Systems is leading this initiative.

Educators After Hours

Sponsored by the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, local businesses are showcasing educational resources and opportunities to local educators.

Ohio Means Jobs Mobile Crew

The Mobile Work Crew focuses on giving young adults hands-on paid experience learning about and working in in-demand career fields. The program targets graduating seniors who are undecided regarding post-secondary plans. Participants travel to a variety of work sites, experience in-demand career fields and earn industry-recognized credentials while earning an income. Mobile crews are created and placed with a team leader who is responsible for transporting the team to and from job sites and training. The work sites are hand-selected based on their ability to provide a well-rounded view and hands-on experience of what it's like working in a specific industry. Short-term training is provided by local training providers. Supportive services are also provided to participants to assist with breaking down employment barriers. Soft skills and job readiness activities are imbedded into the curriculum. The goal is to highlight career paths that individuals may not know existed and encourage in-demand occupations, while providing support, guidance and direction.

Coughlin You Made a Difference Awards

This awards program has been sponsored by the Coughlin Automotive Group for over twenty years. One teacher from each of the eleven public school districts as well as Newark Catholic and the Licking Regional ESC is honored for their impact in the field of education. Each honoree receives a monetary award from Coughlin Automotive to use as they wish. A reception with music provided by one of the school districts and hors d'oeuvres served by the C-TEC culinary class is followed by the annual awards ceremony.

Transcendia Excellence in Education Awards

Transcendia is a Licking County Company that has born several names in the past, but have maintained their commitment to honor a teacher from each school district in Licking County with a beautiful glass apple and cash to be used in their classrooms. Recipients are recognized during their respective district's opening day events and again at a ceremony held at the Licking Regional Educational Service Center in September.

Park National Bank Senior Academic Awards

Each year, the Park National Bank awards two senior students from each Licking County school district a package which includes a monetary award. The award celebrates their high academic achievements made throughout their high school career.

Career Xpress Conference

BCAC originally developed, planned and provided this conference for high school juniors in 2015. This conference is being reignited and many of our BCAC partners are involved in the planning and presentations. This is a three-day conference for high school juniors to explore a variety of "life" topics, network with business reps and higher ed reps, participate in Mock Interviews, and learn about credentials and summer opportunities.

Ongoing meeting minutes are provided.