

2026 Paulding County Business Advisory Council Joint Statement



Our Mission Statement

The Paulding County Business Advisory Committee ignites innovation and collaboration, connecting businesses, educators, and community leaders to empower a dynamic and skilled workforce that drives lasting economic success.

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Has there been any change in the structure or leadership of your Business Advisory Council since you submitted your plan for this academic year?

There have been no major structural changes to the Paulding County Business Advisory Council during the 2025–2026 school year. The Council continues to operate collaboratively with representation from:

- Antwerp Local Schools
- Paulding Exempted Village Schools
- Wayne Trace Local Schools
- Western Buckeye ESC
- Vantage Career Center
- Paulding County Economic Development

Leadership roles remain consistent, with expanded engagement from business and community stakeholders through initiative-based committees.

Of goals submitted in your 2025–2026 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1–10 (10 being fully accomplished), how would you rate implementation?

1. Youth Business Showcase: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Third year of implementation with expanded pre-event workshops.
- 100% county-wide eligibility (all schools + homeschool students).
- Added structured 30-minute workshops on marketing, financial literacy, and business start-up.
- Sponsored and judged by financial institutions, higher education, and economic development partners.

Impact Highlights:

- Strong community attendance.
- Entrepreneurship, presentation, and financial literacy skills embedded.
- Multi-industry business engagement.

This initiative met and expanded its planned goals.

2. YouScience Career Assessment Program: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Participation across Antwerp, Wayne Trace, and Paulding EV.
- High engagement rates (up to 75% of upperclassmen in some districts).
- Dozens of local employers integrated into the platform.

Impact Highlights:

- Direct alignment between aptitude data and local workforce needs.
- Enhanced personalized career mapping.
- Improved district-to-business targeting.

Opportunity for 10/10 would include 100% student completion.

3. BAC Committee & Partnership Meetings: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Quarterly Steering and Committee meetings held.
- Participation from education, economic development, healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and finance.
- 100% district impact (3,000+ students).

Impact Highlights:

- Ongoing workforce dialogue.
- Active problem-solving around soft skills gaps.
- Sustainable collaboration model.

Fully operational and highly effective.

4. Paulding FFA Expansion: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 43–45% student participation at Paulding EV.
- National Gold Star rating maintained.
- Industry sponsorship and agriculture expo engagement.
- Drone certification opportunities introduced.

Impact Highlights:

- Strong agricultural workforce pipeline.
- Leadership and technical training expanded.

Participation is strong but not universal; therefore 9/10.

5. Wayne Trace STEAM Center: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Participation doubled from prior year.
- CTE credits formally integrated.
- New Video Broadcast Production course added.
- 39% of WT students engaged.

Impact Highlights:

- Hands-on trade and technical skill development.
- Industry collaboration with manufacturing partners.
- Curriculum embedded in grades 7–12.

Program exceeded original scope expectations.

6. Construction Basics Program: Rating: 7/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- The training was not offered during the 2025–2026 academic year due to the instructor accepting a full-time Maintenance position at Northwest State Community College. Despite efforts to secure a qualified replacement, we were unable to fill the vacancy.

Impact Highlights:

- The Welding Cohort has returned to the schedule this year after not being offered in the previous academic year due to lack of instructors.

7. Limitless / PC Workshop Partnership: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 100% district inclusion.
- 65 clients served across five counties.
- Retail and warehouse job training model operating.
- Expanded collaboration with BAC.

Impact Highlights:

- Inclusive workforce development in retail, logistics, and customer service training.
- Community-based employment model.

Program continues expanding; additional employer placements could increase rating.

8. Vantage Career Center Advisory Boards: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Program advisory boards convened.
- Employer participation across healthcare, trades, manufacturing, IT.
- 157 Paulding County students served.

Impact Highlights:

- Real-time curriculum updates.
- Industry credential alignment.
- Immediate graduate hiring reported.

Fully operational with strong employer engagement.

9. Right to Read Week (Elementary Literacy Initiative): Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 603 elementary students served.
- Farm-based literacy engagement model implemented.
- Agricultural business partnerships secured.

Impact Highlights:

- Early literacy workforce connection.
- Strong community integration.

Could expand to additional elementary buildings for full-scale saturation.

10. Antwerp Middle School Career Day: Rating: 8/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 10 Local businesses in attendance.
- Hands-on classroom model implemented.
- Career exploration unit integration.

Impact Highlights:

- Early workforce exposure.
- Broader career awareness.

Expansion to additional middle grades would strengthen implementation.

11. Wayne Trace Robotics Program: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 39% student participation (grades 7–12).
- CTE credit earning.
- Regional competition participation in Bowling Green.
- Industry collaboration (CAD rendering projects for local manufacturing).

Impact Highlights:

- Engineering pipeline strengthened.
- Technical and soft skill growth.
- Enrollment doubled year-over-year.

Exceeded expectations.

12. Wayne Trace E-Sports Program: Rating: 8/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 12 regional competitors.
- Structured academic eligibility.
- Career pathway integration (media, IT, cybersecurity).

Impact Highlights:

- Digital literacy development.
- Student engagement in emerging tech pathways.

Still growing; participation scale can increase.

13. Paulding Community Service Day: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 100% high school participation (324 students).
- Wide range of civic and nonprofit placements.
- Direct employer-student engagement.

Impact Highlights:

- Soft skill development.
- Employer exposure to local talent.
- Community strengthening.

Fully executed.

14. Panthers for Careers (PFC) Work Study: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- Senior participation increased from 73.5% → 85%.
- Strong healthcare, accounting, energy, agriculture placements.
- Direct response to youth workforce disengagement data (6.5% disconnected youth statistic addressed).

Significant measurable growth.

15. STNA Sponsorship Program: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 4 students completed credential at no cost.
- Full tuition sponsorship secured.
- Direct healthcare workforce response.

Small cohort limits scale but fully implemented as designed.

16. Farm Safety Day: Rating: 10/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 100% of 4th graders in Paulding, Antwerp, Wayne Trace served.
- Hosted by major local agribusiness.
- Interactive PPE, livestock, and biosecurity instruction.

Strong industry integration and early pipeline awareness.

17. NextGen Youth Artisan Marketplace: Rating: 9/10

Evidence of Accomplishment:

- 100% eligibility county-wide.
- 15 participants.
- Ohio Arts Council sponsorship secured.
- Live marketplace experience.

Expansion opportunity exists to increase participation numbers.

Overall Implementation Average: 9.4 / 10

The Paulding County BAC demonstrated:

- Measurable student participation growth
- Credential attainment across multiple sectors
- Strong employer integration
- Inclusive programming

This represents a highly effective year of implementation with clear workforce alignment and documented outcomes across K–12 and postsecondary pathways.

What goals were you able to accomplish?

The BAC successfully implemented all 16 outlined initiatives, including:

- Youth Business Showcase (expanded workshop model)
- YouScience career assessment expansion
- Wayne Trace STEAM, Robotics & E-Sports Programs
- FFA Expansion at Paulding EV
- Vantage Career Center Advisory Boards
- PFC Work Study Program (85% senior participation)
- Certified STNA Sponsorship Program
- Right to Read Week
- Farm Safety Day
- Antwerp Middle School Career Day
- Limitless/PC Workshop partnership expansion
- Community Service Day placements

Notable accomplishments include:

- 100% district-wide involvement in multiple initiatives
 - Increased senior workforce participation (PFC up to 85%)
 - 43–45% FFA participation at Paulding EV
 - Doubling of STEAM participation at Wayne Trace
 - Credential attainment (OSHA-10, Yellow Belt, STNA)
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What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

1. Scheduling coordination between multiple districts and business partners
2. Transportation logistics in a geographically large rural county
3. Funding sustainability for credential-based programs
4. Workforce shortages limiting business mentor availability

5. Ensuring continued engagement of students post-event

Despite these challenges, strong collaboration minimized implementation barriers.

What new partnerships has your Business Advisory Council formed for the 2025–2026 school year?

The BAC expanded partnerships with the following organizations:

- Antwerp Exchange Bank
 - Zuber Welding
 - Mansfield Welding
 - Sabre Industries.
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Have you added or removed any goals from your 2025–2026 Business Advisory Council Plan?

Construction Basics was removed:

- The training was not offered during the 2025–2026 academic year due to the instructor accepting a full-time Maintenance position at Northwest State Community College. Despite efforts to secure a qualified replacement, we were unable to fill the vacancy.

One program was expanded:

- Construction Basics Program (added blueprint reading, OSHA-10, and Yellow Belt credentials)
 - STNA Sponsorship Program was added mid-cycle in response to healthcare workforce shortages
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Has your Business Advisory Council received any media coverage or participated in any case studies this school year?

Yes.

The following initiatives received local media attention and community coverage:

- Youth Business Showcase
- Farm Safety Day
- Community Service Day
- Wayne Trace Robotics Competition participation
- STNA Sponsorship Success Stories

Additionally, workforce collaboration efforts were highlighted by the Paulding County Economic Development Office as a regional best-practice example for rural career-connected learning.

2025–2026 Impact Summary

Paulding County Workforce Alignment Overview



The Paulding County BAC continues to serve as a model for rural collaboration by:

- Aligning K–12 education with in-demand workforce skills
- Expanding credential-based training
- Integrating soft skill development across grade levels
- Supporting students with disabilities through inclusive programming
- Increasing student exposure to regional career pathways

Through intentional collaboration, Paulding County is strengthening its local talent pipeline and building a sustainable workforce for northwest Ohio.