

Lorain County Business Advisory Council

Joint Statement

The Lorain County Business Advisory Council has met three times to date and has a future meeting scheduled for April 17 to conclude the 2018-19 school year. Specifically the council met on October 23, 2018, January 15, 2019, and February 26, 2019. In attendance were the superintendent or designee of thirteen of the Lorain County school districts and the Joint Vocational School, representatives from Lorain County Community College, the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, Lorain County Workforce Development Board-Ohio Means Jobs, and a business representative from the majority of our school districts. The meetings were facilitated by the ESC of Lorain County.

Participants had in depth discussions regarding the skills necessary to be successful in the workforce, the programming currently available in our communities, ideas which businesses and schools can collaborate, and current workforce data. While discussing the skills needed to be successful in the workforce, the council determined students must be equipped with strong soft skills, be critical thinkers, drug free, and excellent communicators. Because these skills mirror the skills outlined in the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal criteria. The council agreed to promote and support the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal Pathway and its professional skills in our schools.

Based on these discussions, the council made the following recommendations:

- 1. Businesses must create jobs with attractive pay and benefits to attract and retain employees with the skills they desire.*
- 2. Schools must develop partnerships and provide opportunities to be exposed to career education, job shadowing, and internship opportunities.*
- 3. The council plans to participate in the "In-Demand Jobs Week" initiative.*

The council reviewed the in-demand jobs in Northeast Ohio and the state of Ohio. School district leaders will use this data to drive future decision making. The future meetings of the council will focus on developing a mission and vision for the council and to create subcommittees to carry out the mission and vision. The goal of the work is to develop thriving partnerships with local businesses and school districts.