

Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

2025/2026 School Year

The Apollo Career Center represents all Allen County public schools and is the representative agency for the Business Advisory Council. The following schools are represented:

Apollo Career Center | Allen County ESC | Allen East Local Schools | Bath Local Schools | Bluffton Exempted Village Schools
Delphos City Schools | Elida Local Schools | Lima City Schools | Perry Local Schools
Shawnee Local Schools | Spencerville Local Schools

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) has superintendent representatives from each school district listed above.

Our plans include:

1. We will continue to support the Makerfest event. The October 2025 event was a success as business and industry leaders interacted with over 1400 freshman and sophomore students from the region. The 2026 event is scheduled for October 9 -10, 2026, at the Allen County Fairgrounds. The Greater Lima region is the leading organization for this event with significant assistance from the BAC. More information can be found at: <https://makerfestevent.com/>
2. We want to continue to promote networking between school and business officials. Our approach will be for individual businesses to get in front of superintendents and school personnel. We tentatively have a tour scheduled at General Dynamics Land Systems (Lima tank plant) in April.
3. We promoted the Ohio Big Seven Roundtable with representatives from seven key Ohio state organizations to discuss the economy, regulatory issues and workforce issues/demands with local business and industry leaders. This promotion included inviting all members of the BAC. The link below is for a related news story:
https://www.hometownstations.com/news/allen_county/lima-allen-county-chamber-discusses-ohio-economy-at-big-7-roundtable-luncheon/article_9fbf45ea-11e3-4ce9-9755-28c29b145e51.html
4. We will have a presentation at Bath Local Schools on February 18, 2026, to see their CTE offerings and plans made possible by a recent CTE grant award.
5. The BAC is supporting a job fair sponsored by OhioMeansJobs of Allen County scheduled for May 5, 2026.
6. The steering committee will continue to work towards developing effective/beneficial activities and will continue to consider other initiatives that may be beneficial to the Business Advisory Council.
7. The primary contact for the BAC is Keith Horner who can be reached at Apollo Career Center.