

Resource handbook

Ohio career education

Developing a local advisory committee

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# What is an Industry Advisory Committee (IAC):

Ohio’s career-technical Industry Advisory Councils provide advice and input to the local and state industry and educational workforce pipeline, regarding industry skill needs, career pathways, and workforce barriers.

Quality Programs have common characteristics associated in career and technical education linked with the business community. Industry advisory councils are one of the most effective ways to develop and strengthen such partnerships to prepare individuals for a career.

Local industry advisory councils are designed to increase the participation of industry and the community in local career and technical education programs, providing valuable perspectives on policy, articulation, educational programs from a variety of industries and professions.

Career and technical education programs should be tailored to meet the workforce development needs of the community and the needs and interests of the individual students.

Advisory committees strengthen collaboration between those responsible for career and technical education programs and the communities they serve. The dialogue between advisory committee members and career and technical educators fosters shared responsibility for preparing students for a place in the workforce and in society.

#### The dialogue between advisory committee members and career and technical educators fosters shared responsibility for preparing students for a place in the workforce

**and in society.**

# Common Advisory Committee Types in Ohio:

## **General CTE Advisory Committee**

The general CTE advisory committee is appointed for the specific purpose of advising faculty and administration on the maintenance, extension and improvement of the total career and technical education program. Through input, the committee members help to maintain quality and relevance of career and technical education and help strengthen support from the community.

## **Program of Study/Career Cluster/Discipline Advisory Committee**

This advisory committee works at the individual program of study, career cluster or discipline level and is concerned with matters such as curriculum content, equipment, facilities and placement of graduates. Members should represent the occupational area that is served by the program. This advisory committee should have representation or a reporting mechanism to the general advisory committee.

## **Perkins Advisory Committee**

The Perkins advisory committee is organized for the specific purpose of the administration of the Federal Perkins grant for career and technical education. This usually includes determining and prioritizing career and technical education needs within the allocation of the Perkins grant. Federal Law defines the basic makeup of the committee, but additional members may serve.

In a school/college that directly receives Perkins funds, the Perkins advisory committee is usually the same as the general advisory committee.

If the Perkins grant is awarded to a consortium of schools, the Perkins advisory committee must include the members defined by the Federal Law, but should also include adequate representation from each school involved in the consortium. Many Perkins advisory committees operate with subcommittees from each program area to provide adequate information for decision-making based on program needs.

Educators and school officials must understand how to work effectively with advisory committees. It is especially important to consult the appropriate administrators and school personnel involved in the establishment of an advisory committee. Before an advisory committee is established, approval should be obtained from the appropriate authority. Written statements of rationale and purposes of the advisory committee should be prepared.

# Roles of the Committee

Advisory committees have three major roles:

To advise — The advisory committee assesses specific areas of the career and technical education programs and makes suggestions and recommendations designed to improve that specific area. Such recommendations could include the modification of curriculum, purchase of new instructional materials and equipment or adoption of a new safety policy.



To assist — The advisory committee helps the instructor(s) and/or administrator carry out specific activities. These activities could include judging competitive skill events, setting up a scholarship program or obtaining media coverage for special events.



To support and advocate — The advisory committee promotes the career and technical education program throughout the community, offering internships, tours, job shadowing, and more work-based learning opportunities. Promotion or marketing could include talking to legislators, speaking for career and technical education at board meetings, writing articles for local newspapers or arranging publicity.



Members may be selected from the following: Geographical sections of the school’s service area



All types of business and industry, particularly those predominant in the area (including work based learning programs: internships, pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeship programs)

Both labor and management Job service personnel Government Students/former students Parents of students



Individuals who serve on the advisory committee should represent a community cross-section in terms of gender, race, occupation and socio-economic status. Three other important factors to be considered when nominating members for the committee are their capability, available time and level of interest. An effort should be made to select advisory committee members who have some direct relationship to career and technical education.

# Size of the Committee

Effective advisory committees are large enough to reflect the diversity of the community, yet small enough to be managed effectively. Committees with fewer than five members may have limited perspective, inadequate information on the career fields and too little diversity.

Committees with more than 15-20 members can become unmanageable.

# Appointment of Committee Members

Be sure to nominate persons whose opinions are respected. The value of any recommendation of the committee will be essentially equal to the collective respect that the community, school and administration have for the members of the committee. (See Illustration 1.1)

Consider having the members of the committee formally appointed by the appropriate administrator or school personnel. Appointments to advisory committees should be made for definite periods of time. Procedures should be established to address members’ appointment dismissals or resignations and the possible use of alternates. (See Illustration 1.2)

## Term of Service

To allow for both continuity and change, it may prove beneficial to incorporate a rotational three-year term of service. To establish this rotation with a new committee, the members draw lots for one-, two-, or three-year terms, with one-third of the committee in each category. New members are appointed as terms expire.

## Orientation for Committee Members

New committee members must be provided an orientation to their role on the advisory committee, but also must have current information or career and technical education offered in the school. Some ways to provide CTE information to the committee members are:

Interviews with CTE teachers Tours of CTE program facilities



Review of curriculum materials including textbooks Talking with students and/or parents



# 

# Committee Operations

Advisory committees are more likely to be effective if formal operational guidelines are established. These formal guidelines would include a Charter, established meeting schedule and agendas.

## **Charter**

A career and technical education advisory committee charter may be established in writing to orient committee members to the goals, objectives, rules and procedures of the operation of the committee. The charter should be kept brief with emphasis on clarifying the management and interaction of the committee. The charter may include:

The name of the programs being served



The relationship of the committee to the program(s)/school being served



The purpose and goal(s) of the committee Terms of members



Election of officers

Bylaws, reports, special procedural rules, etc.



## **Meetings**

Once appointed, advisory committee members should attend meetings regularly, participate in discussions, and respect the rights of fellow members. Systematic controls should be established to deal with committee operations. Meetings should be held as often as the committee has important business (see Illustration 1.3). Officers should include a chair, a vice chair and a secretary. The business of the committee should be conducted with:

A working agenda



Use of parliamentary procedures with recording of minutes Subcommittees as necessary



Decision by a quorum vote of a simple majority

## Establishing the Advisory Committee

## **Agenda**

Items for the agenda should be identified by the education representative and the advisory committee chairperson (see Illustration 1.4). The agenda should be prepared for each meeting and distributed to the members before the meeting when notice of the meeting is sent.

Agenda items should include:

Roll call and agenda additions (if any) Introductions of guests

Approval of previous minutes Special presentations Communication

Committee reports

Old business/New business Adjournment

# Responsibilities of Committee Members

An effective committee is one that knows in advance that something positive will occur as a result of its work. To have something occur, the committee must be goal directed. One of the best ways to encourage attendance and participation is to give the committee real situations to discuss.

## **Chair**

**Responsibilities of Committee Officers**

The chair’s leadership is key to the success of the advisory committee. It is suggested that a member other than a school representative assume this role. The chair should possess skills and characteristics such as:

Experience in business/industry in the community served by the program



Ability to manage meetings, plan and adhere to schedules, involve members in ongoing activities and reach closure or consensus on issues



Skill in oral and written communications as well as willingness to make appearances before school and community representatives



Experience as a committee member



Ability to delegate responsibility as well as willingness to accept responsibility for the committee’s actions



Personal characteristics such as empathy, fairness, tolerance and sound judgment



The responsibilities of the chair include:

Work with school and community representatives to plan and carry out the committee’s program of work



Prepare agendas and assist the instructor in handling details regarding meetings



Preside at meetings



Keep group efforts focused and all members involved in tasks Delegate tasks and follow-up work



Arrange for presenting of background information and reports to the committee

Represent the committee at official meetings and functions



Submit recommendations of the committee to appropriate administrators and group



Follow-up on committee recommendations or actions



## **Vice Chair**

The skills and responsibilities of the vice chair are identical to those of the chair. The vice chair takes charge when the chair is absent or cannot serve.

## **Secretary**

The secretary records meeting minutes (see Illustration 1.5) and performs other clerical duties. Committees may use a school representative in this position because of their access to computers and reproduction facilities.

The responsibilities of the secretary include:

Take minutes at meetings; prepare and distribute minutes



Mail agenda, announcements, minutes and other information to members



Help assemble and distribute necessary background information to members



Correspond with representatives of school and community as needed



# Bylaws

Effective advisory committees are guided by policies and rules that describe the purposes of the committee, its scope of responsibility and what is expected of members. (see Illustration 1.6)

Bylaws are a formal written description of committee operation. At a minimum, they include:

Name of the committee Purpose



Membership

Officers and their duties Meetings



Committees Parliamentary authority Amendment procedure



Bylaws should be tailored to the needs and requirements of the program and the school in which the program operates.

# Sample Committee Activities

Once the committee has identified its priorities, the discussion will become more specific as the committee determines exactly what it wants to accomplish. Possible activities in each priority area include:

**Community relations activities**

Present programs to civic and service groups



Establish ways to recognize outstanding students, teachers and community leaders



Obtain contributions to promote programs Participate in and promote special school events Provide information at school board meetings Set up and support a scholarship program Promote secondary/postsecondary connections



##### Curriculum activities

Review instructional materials for technical accuracy Assist in obtaining instructional materials Recommend equipment and supplies



Recommend core curriculum content Recommend safety policies



Provide equipment and facilities for specialized training needs Encourage/promote secondary/postsecondary connections



##### Community resource activities

Identify community resource people Provide tours and field trip experiences Provide speakers



Promote awareness of career opportunities

**Career and Technical Student Organization activities** Assist in developing competitive skills events Judge competitive skills events



Sponsor student organization activities

Collect skill events contributions of equipment and supplies



##### Job placement activities

Organize employer/student conferences Notify teachers of job openings for students Provide training sites for students



Encourage other employers to provide training sites Assist students to develop interviewing skills Recommend employability skills



Hire career and technical education graduates

##### Program review activities

Review program goals and objectives Participate on program evaluation teams



Compare student performance standards to business/industry standards Review adequacy of the facility



Make recommendations for program improvement Review secondary/postsecondary possibilities



Support dual credit opportunities for students (secondary/postsecondary)

##### Staff development activities

Provide in-service activities on new and current business/industry methods and processes for instructors



Provide skilled technicians to supplement instructor’s experience



Provide summer/part-time employment to instructors for technical upgrading



Support instructor participation in professional development activities



##### Recruitment activities

Assist in recruiting new staff



Assist in recruiting potential students



This list of activities is not all inclusive, but should give the advisory committee some ideas to consider. The functions and activities chosen for the program of work should match the needs of the program and community.

The advisory committee may benefit administrators by:

Advising the school authorities on the development of its long-range and annual plans for career and technical education



Advising on policy matters rising out of the administration of the plan



Interpreting to the school authorities the career and technical education needs of individuals and the community



Assisting the school authorities in identifying the career and technical education needs of individuals and the community



Assisting in assessing present and foreseeable needs in the area labor market



Evaluating the impact of career and technical education programs on the people and community



Assisting school personnel in understanding the postsecondary training needs for meeting the labor market’s needs



The advisory committee may benefit the school and students by:

Assisting in conducting surveys of local workforce needs

Reviewing long-range and annual plans for a career and technical education program



Advising on the establishment and maintenance of quality and relevant career and technical programs



Reviewing career and technical education budget requests for CTE instructional materials, labs, equipment and supplies



Evaluating the adequacy of CTE facilities and equipment Reviewing course content to ensure relevancy



Assisting in identifying skills/competencies needed in specific occupations Assisting in development of workbased learning opportunities



Assisting in development of postsecondary training opportunities Promote career guidance activities in school counseling



Serve as mentors for students seeking career guidance

Reviewing child labor laws and local student employment



Arranging plant/field trip visits for teachers, students and counselors



Assisting in developing/maintaining library of visual aids, magazines and books concerning industry



Assisting in developing in securing samples of industry products/ materials for exhibit and instructional purposes



Providing scholarships and other financial assistance for outstanding graduates desiring to continue their education and training



Providing recognition such as awards to outstanding students



Supporting and becoming involved with career and technical education student organizations (CSO’s)



Assisting in conducting clinics and in-service training for teachers Providing resource persons from industry to assist teachers Arranging industry experiences for teachers



Providing recognition such as awards to outstanding teachers Paying industry organization membership dues for teachers



Helping teachers, financially, to attend out-of-town industry and teachers organization meetings

The advisory committee may benefit the community by:

Providing speakers to address trade or civic groups or appear on radio and television concerning career and technical education programs in the schools



Providing news stories on career and technical education programs to local news media and to industry trends magazines



Attending meetings in support of career and technical education programs that may be called by local or state schools officials, boards and legislative groups



Contributing funds to promote specific programs by way of advertisement in newspapers or through other media



A periodic review of the local advisory committee can help the committee in determining:

The extent to which it is accomplishing its goals



The extent to which the recommendations and actions have strengthened the career and technical education program



Future direction and activities for the committee



This review can be either formal or informal. The goal of the review is to help the committee determine its overall effectiveness. The teacher and others can be a valuable resource in this review process.

#### Do

Make a commitment Attend meetings

Stick to the agenda — meet for a purpose Align recommendations with available

resources

Remember advisory role

Advise when improvement is desired Be a fact finder

Make commendations for a job well done Invite all opinions

Develop good rapport Consider a variety of subjects

#### Don’t

“Wait and See”

Have a record of absenteeism Waste others time

Add to the “wish list”

Usurp school administrator’s or board’s authority

Fail to suggest alternative solutions Be a fault finder

Be afraid to give recognition Avoid those who disagree Remain in isolation

Impose pre-established, personal opinions

# Reviewing the Program of Work

Like the career and technical education program itself, the work of the advisory committee should be reviewed periodically. The primary reasons for this review are to determine:

The extent to which the committee is accomplishing the program of work



The extent to which the recommendations and actions have strengthened and improved the career and technical education program



The future direction, functions and activities for the committee



It is suggested that assessment be part of the agenda for the advisory committee’s final meeting of the school year. Assessment of the program of work might include answering the following questions:

##### Were annual priorities established?

To make an impact on the career and technical education program, build the advisory committee program of work around the function(s) that have the highest priority for that year.

##### Did the activities or projects help to carry out the established priorities?

As advisory committees begin developing their plans, it is easy to forget that individual projects that help carry out the overall priority for the year are likely to have a greater impact than an equal or larger number of projects that do not relate to a common goal.

##### Was the program of work realistic in scope?

An enthusiastic committee may develop an ambitious program of work and then find that they cannot complete or even begin all the tasks they have set for themselves.

##### Were specific timelines established for each planning task?

Timelines help to keep committee members on task. In complex projects or those that require several months to complete, setting intermediate timelines can help members see progress even when the ultimate goal has not been reached.

##### What impacts has the committee seen as a result of the program at work?

It is important to recognize successes of any size. Celebrate your successes—they help to maintain enthusiasm among advisory committee members.

# Factors Affecting Advisory Committee Success

The success of an advisory committee can also be affected by the way in which the committee is managed. While each advisory committee may operate differently, certain factors can help to predict whether the committee will be able to function effectively. These factors include:

##### Number of meetings each year

The number of meetings required will be determined by the advisory committee’s annual goals and program of work. There should be enough meetings to move beyond the “information” stage and into action that addresses specific issues of program improvement.

##### Attendance at meetings

Adults frequently “vote with their feet.” If they feel an activity is not a good use of their time, they attend less often or even end their involvement.

##### Length of service on the advisory committee

Service on the advisory committee should be long enough that members become well acquainted with the program and are able to make knowledgeable suggestions or recommendations.

Furthermore, staggering membership terms assures that there will always be some experienced advisory committee members who can help educate the new members.

##### Representation from diverse populations

A committee has greater credibility when it is perceived to represent the entire community, program and student population it serves. Where occupations in a business or industry had been traditional to one gender, extra care should be taken to change the perception by securing advisory committee representation from among non-traditional employees in that field.

##### Meeting agenda

Having the agenda prior to the date of the meeting gives members an opportunity to consider the issues that will be discussed. A written agenda may also keep members on task.

##### Distribution of minutes

Minutes of meetings remind members of what was done and what remains to be done. The minutes also inform decision-makers within your school about what is being discussed and/or proposed for the career and technical education program.

# Public Recognition of Committee Members

When individuals volunteer their time, appropriate recognition can let advisory committee members know that their investment of knowledge and time is worthwhile and appreciated.

**Recommendations are given careful consideration**

Knowing they make a difference can inspire advisory committee members. Therefore, inform the advisory committee when recommendations are implemented.

**Recognize outstanding members**

Rewards encourage attendance and involvement. Recognition activities also attract the attention and interest of other qualified people who may someday serve on the advisory committee. They also bring public attention and goodwill to the organization because they demonstrate that the organization appreciates the efforts of its members.

Members are not paid for their efforts; therefore, rewards and recognition are especially important to advisory committees. Rewards should not be given indiscriminately but should be based on actual contribution to the committee’s activity.

The best types of rewards or recognition are those that can stimulate productivity, improve committee interaction and increase member satisfaction. Most members are willing to attend regularly and work hard as long as their expertise and talents are used, their recommendations are seriously considered and they are given feedback concerning their efforts.

The following are some ways to recognize your committee members:

 Issue press releases announcing member appointments

Report periodically at meetings and in the media on the results of committee recommendations and the ways the committee has been of service



 Invite members to visit programs to see the results of their recommendations

 Invite members to attend special career and technical education events

 Introduce advisory committee members at program or CSO meetings or events

**Recognize outstanding members—continued**

Hold a banquet in honor of the committee and present certificates of service



Schedule a meeting whereby administrators of the school or institution can attend



Place members’ names on a display board or plaque at the school or institution



Include members’ names on program information disseminated to the public



At the end of the year, send each member a letter of thanks and appreciation, signed by the appropriate school official



Send a letter of appreciation to the committee member’s supervisor and/or company, explaining the work being done by the member and committee and thanking the company for its support



Provide a certificate that the member can display at work, identifying him or her as a current advisory committee member



# Appendix

Illustration 1.1

Date

Ms. Jane Phipps 213 Cedar Avenue

Somewhere, OH 45000

Dear Ms. Jones

Your experience and exemplary reputation have led to your recommendation for membership on the CTE Advisory Committee for (name of program) at (name of school). The committee is composed of outstanding business, industry and civic representatives from our community. It works to forge closer cooperation between business and education by continually improving the workforce preparation for our students.

Your insight into the skills needed for today’s competitive workplace would be of great value. Our committee and our school’s desire is to prepare young people to gain those necessary skills.

We realize your time is limited; we will make every effort to keep our meetings prompt, precise and purposeful. There will be (number) meetings a year for each of the three years of your term.

We invite you to become a member of the CTE Advisory Committee; your three-year term would begin on (date). Please consider this invitation and inform us of your decision by (date). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely

Committee Chair, Teacher, and/or Administrative Official

Illustration 1.2

Date

Ms. Jane Phipps 213 Cedar Avenue

Somewhere, NE 68000

Dear Ms. Jones

Congratulations on your three-year appointment to the CTE Advisory Committee for (name of program) at (name of school). Thank you for your willingness to serve. Your contribution will keep the program effective and up to date as well as help to make our community a better a place in which to live and work.

Your first meeting as a committee member is scheduled for (date) at (time) in the (room, name and address of school). You will be contacted soon with a tentative agenda and other committee member materials.

We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely

Administrative Official

Illustration 1.3

Date

Name Company Address

Somewhere, State ZIP

Dear (Name)

The next meeting of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee will be (time/date) at (location). Enclosed is a copy of the agenda for the meeting. We plan to tour the facility and discuss curriculum concerns.

We look forward to seeing you. Please notify me if you cannot attend. Phone: (555-0000) Email: (——).

Sincerely

Committee Chair



Illustration 1.4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  |
|  | **CAREER & TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  **(LOCATION) (DATE — 7-9 p.m.)**  Call to Order  (-Committee Chair)  Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests  (-Committee Chair and Program Instructor) Approval of Minutes  Role of the CTE Advisory Committee  Overview of the CTE Program and Tour of Facility (-Instructor)  Unfinished Business  Report of Response to Previous Committee’s Recommendations Update on Program of Work for Year  New Business  Discussion of a Program of Work  Establish Time, Date and Location of Next Meeting Assess Equipment and Facilities  Scheduling of Next Meeting  (-Committee Chair)  Adjourn |  |
|  |  | |

Illustration 1.5

**[HIGH SCHOOL]**

**[CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION] ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES [DATE OF MEETING]**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present.** (List)

**Members Absent.** (List)

**Other Present.** (List)

**Call to Order.** Committee Chair Beverly Smith called the meeting to order at 12 noon and expressed appreciation for attendance and participation. She stressed the importance of the committee’s continuing support and assistance. Dr. Jane Doe, Principal, greeted the committee. Her greeting further assured the committee of its importance to the educational goals and program vitality.

**Minutes.** Minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

**Unfinished Business.** No unfinished business was brought before the committee.

**New Business.** Ms. Smith asked the committee to make suggestions concerning “What are the new requirements of entry-level employees?”

Ben Read indicated that a computer or data processing background would be helpful for employees. Eva Johnson further emphasized the need for computer training. She indicated that a job applicant with computer knowledge has an advantage. It was the consensus of the committee that expanded computer training should be added to the CTE program as soon as possible. The chair was asked to appoint a subcommittee to investigate several kinds of computers and software for possible purchase to work with a committee of CTE instructors and a report should be given at the next advisory committee meeting.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

*Paul Papper, Secretary*

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE BYLAWS**

Illustration 1.6

**Article I: Name**

The name of the committee shall be the [School/Institution] Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

**Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this committee shall be to advise, assist and support and advocate for the Career and Technical Education program on matters that will strengthen instruction and expand learning opportunities for students.

**Article III: Members**

Section 1. Members shall be selected and appointed by the program coordinator, advisory committee or administration.

Section 2. Members shall represent a cross-section of the industry or occupation for which training is provided and the community served by the program.

Section 3. Member terms shall be three years, with one-third of the membership appointed each year. No member shall serve consecutive terms, but a former member may be re-appointed after a one-year absence from the committee.

**Article IV: Officers**

Section 1. Officers shall be a chair, vice-chair and secretary. These officers shall be the executive Council for the advisory committee.

Section 2. Duties of officers shall be those commonly ascribed to these offices. Section 3. Officers shall be elected by simple majority of appointed members.

**Article V: Meetings**

Section 1. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of appointed members.

Section 2. Decisions will commonly be made by consensus. A formal vote shall be taken when a decision is to be forwarded to the instructor or administration as a recommendation.

**Article VI: Subcommittee**

Section 1. Subcommittees shall be appointed by the chair as needed to accomplish the program of work.

**Article VII: Parliamentary Authority**

Except as otherwise provided in its Bylaws, the advisory committee shall be governed in its proceedings by the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

**Article VIII: Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at a meeting of the committee by a two-thirds vote.

Bylaws adopted [date]

Bylaws amended [most recent amendment date]

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