

**Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative
MAWAC
Joint Statement 2026-2027**

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1. Has there been any change in the structure or leadership of your Business Advisory Council since you submitted your plan for this academic year? If yes, please provide details.

● **Yes, we have two new co-chairs. Kelly Garrett, 6-12 family liaison and career navigator at River Valley and Jacob Neutzling, Ridgedale JH/HS principal.**

2. Of goals submitted in your 25-26 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being fully accomplished.

What goals were you able to accomplish?

● **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers - rating 8**

- We have completed many of our action items as planned including our Careers Made in Marion Expo, Tri-Rivers Career Center visits, Pathways visits within schools, Career interest inventories are completed at all districts
- Due to the teacher shortage:
 - Marion Technical College has added an Early Childhood Associate's Degree program
 - Ohio State Marion has aligned CCP courses to allow HS students interested in the education field to begin the pathway, including hosting classes on site at River Valley High School
- Due to the healthcare worker shortage:
 - 4 of the 5 participating school districts have now implemented Healthcare programs (with the opportunity for students to earn their CNA and other certifications/credentials)

● **Build Partnerships - rating 7**

- We are happy to have maintained and improved the engagement of our current members. Our monthly meetings attendance has been between 70-80%. We have expanded with a couple of new members but are not yet to the diversity we are seeking. With 4 meetings still scheduled, our committee will continue to attempt to recruit members and expand our representation in other career fields.
- Our 2nd goal aligned to building partnerships was to increase our site visits to industry partners. We created a shared Google sheet for all

member districts to track their workforce development activities. To date, we have doubled our number of visits to our partners and visits from our partners into our schools. This goal had to be adjusted due to transportation issues resulting from bus driver shortages experienced by all districts.

● **Coordinate Experiences - rating 8**

- While we've seen an increase in our Work-Based Learning hours overall, partner districts still find this to be a challenge. They have noted that the Agriculture pathway has the easiest time with WBL.
- The River Valley Farm complex and Harding Microfarm have expanded their agricultural awareness through their respective grants with various field trips, class visits, WBL opportunities, and planned summer camps.

a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

- Turnover within our partner members has created a few issues with coordination, but we utilize our recruiting committee to reengage partners who are experiencing this.
- Transportation continues to be an issue for partner districts.
- Finding opportunities for WBL aligned with each district's pathways has improved but still presents challenges.

3. What new partnerships has your Business Advisory Council formed for the 2026-2027 school year? Please list any new business partners, organizations, or community stakeholders that have been added.

- **JAG Healthcare**
- **Meadows of Marion**

4. Have you added or removed any goals from your SY26-27 Business Advisory Council Plan? If so, please provide specific details on these changes.

- No changes have been made at this time.

5. Has your Business Advisory Council received any media coverage or participated in any case studies during this school year? If yes, please provide details on the coverage and the focus of any case studies.

- **We have not received any media coverage**
- **We have not participated in any case studies**