

# Workforce Development

A strong, skilled workforce is necessary to give Ohio an edge when it comes to competing in the global economy. Our members are struggling to find qualified workers to fill vacancies. Government and educational institutions should work hand in hand with the business community to understand their needs and tailor programs to meet them.

- Ohio should continue to better streamline existing workforce development programs under one single state agency. The current patchwork of programs deters small-business owners from utilizing the benefits their tax dollars support.
- Any changes or improvements in accessibility to workforce development programs should also include a focus on businesses that are already located in Ohio, not just on attracting new businesses.
- Creating a system whereby employers and existing employees have skin in the game with supporting dollars from the state would help dictate employer/employee needs instead of educational institutions attempting to shape training opportunities.
- Establishing a partnership between secondary education, colleges, universities and technical schools with the business community will help to shape curriculum and training that allows graduates to be prepared to enter the workforce immediately.
- Enforcing existing law requiring business advisory councils in all school districts to ensure students understand employment opportunities in their local communities.