Solving today’s toughest workforce challenges—unprecedented technological growth, shifting demographics, and increasing customer sophistication—takes collaboration among leaders in education, business, and industry.

Business advisory boards can bridge the gap between schools and the business community—and create highly effective, innovative solutions that benefit both schools and the workforce they’re developing.

**Foundation for Business Advisory Boards: Employability Skills Framework**

- **Applied Academic Skills**
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
- **Resource Management**
- **Information Use**
- **Communications Skills**
- **Systems Thinking**
- **Technology Use**
- **Personal Qualities**
- **Interpersonal Skills**
- **Effective Relationships (Employability)**
- **Workplace Skills**

[https://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/employability-skills-framework](https://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/employability-skills-framework)
A Sustainable Path to School-Industry Partnerships

Challenge: To align work-based learning and career readiness opportunities through the engagement and integration of industry partnerships

Customized Support: Rock Hill Schools engaged RTI International in a strategic planning process for the development of a business advisory board through the prioritization and engagement of relevant stakeholders; identification of hallmarks for success; and creation of steering committees for outreach, logistics, and implementation.

Results: A team that included the superintendent, district and school leaders, and career counselors developed a framework for the creation and launch of a district-wide business advisory board with the goal of improving corporate outreach and engagement, offering increased workforce development and career exploration opportunities, and enhancing basic work and soft skills necessary for future ready learning. The planning team considered a work-based learning continuum for district success, articulated specific outcomes aligned with local economic development, formulated a driver diagram to map and organize change initiatives, and created subcommittees to implement and execute the plan.

By the Numbers

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
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The RTI Center for Education Services leverages industry expertise, staff experience, and research insights to offer customized consulting and strategic planning for schools interested in strengthening ties to their local business community through business advisory boards.

Together, these groups of educators, administrators, and business leaders can establish shared goals and objectives that align to local workforce demands, ensuring that students graduate prepared for post-secondary education and work.

School districts around the nation have turned to RTI to understand best practices, receive individualized needs assessments, and develop frameworks to build highly effective industry partnerships that add value for all stakeholders.

These partnerships can provide students with support and authentic opportunities to learn, apply, and adapt employability skills while affiliated businesses benefit from a well-equipped incoming workforce.

Learn More

All children deserve a quality education that empowers them to thrive. However, each day educators are faced with new challenges driven by the accelerating pace of change. The need to perceive, understand, and act on emerging trends and practices creates added complexity and can strain capacity. At RTI, we’re partnering with educators to change that.

Contact

Todd Campbell
Education Consultant, Education Services
tbcampbell@rti.org
919.316.3454

www.rti.org/centers/education-services

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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