**Advisor FAQs**

As a new advisor, how do I get involved in DECA?

Your first step is to contact your Ohio Executive Advisory Council Representative. If you don’t know what DECA District your school is in, contact Drew Goldfinger, State Advisor for Ohio DECA at (614) 728-9618 or [drew.goldfinger@education.ohio.gov](mailto:drew.goldfinger@education.ohio.gov) and he will put you in touch with your Council Member.

***2024-2025 Current Executive Advisory Council***

**District 1**: Kelly Cooper, Defiance High School **419-789-6384** [kcooper@defianceschools.net](mailto:kcooper@defianceschools.net)

**District 2**: Nadine Scott, Penta Oak Harbor High School

419- 341-0873 [nscott@pentacc.org](mailto:nscott@pentacc.org)

**District 3**: Heidi Lisi, St. Mary’s Memorial High School

419-303-6010 [Heidi.Lisi@smriders.net](mailto:Heidi.Lisi@smriders.net)

**District 4**: Eric Wagner, Northmont High School

419-957-4530 [ewagner@northmontschools.net](mailto:ewagner@northmontschools.net)

**District 5**: Trevor Ward, Harrison High School

513-367-4169 [tward@greatoaks.com](mailto:tward@greatoaks.com)

**District 6**: David Vilardo, Mariemont High School

513-272-7600 [vilardod@greatoaks.com](mailto:vilardod@greatoaks.com)

**District 7**: Eric Wells, Olentangy High School

740-657-4169, [eric\_wells@olentangy.k12.oh.us](mailto:eric_wells@olentangy.k12.oh.us)

**District 8**: Dr. Tom Griffin, Maple Heights High School

216-438-6400, [thomas.griffin@mapleschools.com](mailto:thomas.griffin@mapleschools.com)

**District 9**: Aja Tompot, Lake High School

330-877-4282, [tompotaja@lakelocal.org](mailto:tompotaja@lakelocal.org)

**District 10**: Kelly Robinson, Groveport Madison High School

614-836-4964, [krobinson@efcts.us](mailto:krobinson@efcts.us)

**District 11**: Samantha Caldwell, Barberton High School

330-753-1084, [scoldwell@barbertonschools.org](mailto:scoldwell@barbertonschools.org)

**District 12**: Justin Servis, Anderson High School

513-947-7699, [servisj@greatoaks.com](mailto:servisj@greatoaks.com)

I’ve never been involved in a Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) before, what is the best way to get started?

There is no one best way but get started! Here are some tips:

* Have your class elect an officer team, starting with at least a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
* Talk to the other advisors in your DECA district, many people do different things. See what makes the most sense to you.
* Get your students involved in competitions and begin prepping them. Ask other advisors for their best practices and tips when it comes to preparing for competitions.
* Pick a competitive event or local activity and become an expert. There are so many types and areas of competition it can be overwhelming. Start with just one area (Series, Team, Project Management, etc) and learn the ins and outs of that competition before moving on to another.
* Encourage your students to attend Ohio DECA Camp. Both you and the students will learn about DECA, its value to your program, become highly motivated for the upcoming school year, and have the opportunity to network with students and advisors from across the state.

What is a Program of Work?

A Program of Work (POW) can be as simple as a calendar of events that you want to accomplish during the year within your program. This can include preparation dates for competitions, community service projects, leadership activities, etc. Include SMART goals that make your purpose for your program that year clear to yourself, your students, and your business advisory council.

Who tells the districts what they have to do for district competitions?

In Ohio, most everything is a local decision. Ohio DECA will let you know how many spots your district gets for students to compete at the state conference (CDC) and will provide a window for district competition scheduling. The way your district chooses to handle the operation, location, date, and time of competition is a district decision. Each district should have its own constitution or other governing rules.