Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System, Inc.

2222 Filmore Ave. Suite 600, Erie, PA 16506 · www.aceserie.org · 814-456-7007

Pennsylvania Business Week

Pennsylvania Business Week is an economic education program of the Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System (ACES). It is a one-week in-school program with a challenging curriculum that teaches students about the American economic system. The students are divided into management teams that "run" their own company for the equivalent of 12 business quarters.

ACES PBW Programs for the 26-27 School Year

Dates	School (*County*)	Grade
Oct. 5-9, 2026	Greenville HS *(Mercer County)*	12th
Oct. 26-30, 2026	Fort LeBoeuf HS *(Erie County)*	11th
Nov. 16-20, 2026	New Castle HS *(Lawrence County)*	12th
Dec. 14-18, 2026	Hickory HS *(Mercer County)*	12th
Jan. 11-15, 2027	Penncrest SD (Maplewood HS) (*Crawford County)*	11th
Feb. 1-5, 2027	Girard HS *(Erie County)*	11th
Feb. 22-26, 2027	Union City HS *(Erie County)*	11th
March 8-12, 2027	North East High *(Erie County)*	11th
Apr. 5-9, 2027	Corry HS *(Erie County)*	11th

Types of Volunteerism:

Business Advisor

- *Time Commitment: 1 week (Mon. – Fri.) from start of school day – end of school day*
- *Roughly 30 - 40 hours*

The business advisor plays a key role in the success of Pennsylvania Business Week by interacting with and guiding a student company throughout the week. The business advisor is a volunteer who is willing and able to spend Monday through Friday from approximately 7:30 am until 3:00 pm (the entire school day) with a group of 10 – 15 high school students. Previous commitments such as appointments or meetings can be accommodated, as long as the advisor can be there the majority of the time.

Business advisors should either be currently involved in business in some aspect or retired from business. The students will directly benefit from the real-world business experiences that business advisors can provide and will share. You don't need to have a business degree or be an accountant! The ACES team is on-site and will present the information to the students. As an advisor, you are there to guide, mentor and encourage.

Business advisors are partnered with a teacher in the classroom and together they guide the students through the week, sharing experiences and culminating in competitions with a "Top Company" being named at the end of the week. The four competitions include: Return on Net Assets (RONA, this is the financial simulation), Advertising and Marketing, the Trade Show, and Stockholders.

Both teacher and volunteer advisors will be asked to attend a training session that will provide the advisors with the information that they will need to know during the program. This training session is usually held the Friday before the program, at the school.

Connecting with your local school in this way is a good opportunity to open up lines of communication between the business and education communities. You will also be able to network with other volunteer business advisors throughout the week. Most important is the satisfaction of helping students gain a better understanding of their future in the workforce, career exploration and personal growth.

Competition Judge

- *Time Commitment: Friday Morning or Late Friday Morning of each school's program week*
- *Roughly 3 -5 hours*

Competition Judges are volunteers that are able to dedicate roughly 4/5 hours on a Friday morning to judge one of the competitions presentations. These volunteers are experienced in accounting, advertising, banking, and related fields to set the standards in the student competitions.

The 3 areas for judging include:

1. **Advertising & Marketing:** Takes place Friday morning, from roughly 7:30 am – 11:30 am, and judges will score teams on their marketing strategy, ad campaign, and overall presentation.
2. **Stockholders Presentation:** Takes place Friday morning, from roughly 7:30 am – 11:30 am, and judges will score teams on their financial understanding of how they invested their money in our computer simulation to compete for orders. Teams will present income statements, balance sheets, charts, and graphs to best explain their financial decision making.
3. **Trade Show:** Takes place Friday late morning, from roughly 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Judges will circle the gym (trade show) and score teams on their overall table display, prototype, and sales pitch.

Volunteer Return Form

If you are looking to get more involved with our participating Pennsylvania Business Week schools. Please, complete the following form and return via email to antonella@aceserie.org or mail to ACES at 2222 Filmore Avenue, Suite 600, Erie, PA 16506.

	Advisor	Judge	Name and Company	Email
Greenville HS *Mercer County* Oct. 5-9, 2026	☐	☐		
Fort LeBoeuf HS *Erie County* Oct. 26-30, 2026	☐	☐		
New Castle HS *Lawrence County* Nov. 16-20, 2026	☐	☐		
Hickory HS *Mercer County* Dec. 14-18, 2026	☐	☐		
Penncrest SD *Crawford County* Jan. 11-15, 2027	☐	☐		
Girard HS *Erie County* Feb. 1-5, 2027	☐	☐		
Union City HS *Erie County* Feb. 22-26, 2027	☐	☐		
North East HS *Erie County* Mar. 8-12, 2027	☐	☐		
Corry HS *Erie County* Apr. 5-9, 2027	☐	☐		