

LINKED LEARNING

What Is Linked Learning?

Linked Learning is a proven approach that is transforming education for California students by integrating rigorous academics with career-based learning (Career Technical Education) and real world workplace experiences. Linked Learning ignites high school students' passions by creating meaningful learning experiences through career-oriented pathways in fields such as engineering, health care, performing arts, information & technology, and more. When students love what they're learning, they work harder, dream bigger, and learn more.

1. Linked Learning prepares students to succeed in college, career, and life.

Linked Learning is always about both college and career; it's never a choice between one or the other. Here's why: The probability of making a living wage in today's economy without some form of postsecondary education is already low and will only continue to diminish. Increasingly, career success depends on a postsecondary degree or credential—whether that's a certificate, apprenticeship, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or higher level of achievement. Rigorous academics prepare students for success in California's community colleges and universities, as well as in apprenticeships and other postsecondary programs.

2. Linked Learning prepares high school students for a full range of post-graduation opportunities.

In addition to rigorous academics, CTE industry pathway courses center on increased student proficiency in vital areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, media and information literacy, and collaboration—essential skills in the workplace. Career-based learning in the classroom delivers concrete knowledge and skills through a cluster of three or more courses, emphasizing the practical application of academic learning and preparing students for high-skill, high-wage employment.

3. Linked Learning connects academics to real-world applications.

Linked Learning students understand how their high school education leads to their next academic or career steps. Linked Learning programs integrate core academics with a career focus and raise expectations for students. Core subjects are mastered through the power of applying knowledge in a real-world context. Students learn by addressing authentic challenges and situations customary to the modern workplace. Work-based learning is gained in real-world workplaces via job shadowing, apprenticeships, internships, and professional skill-building opportunities.

4. Linked Learning improves student engagement.

Linked Learning provides a more integrated and equitable approach to high school equity for California students by eliminating practices that limit their options after high school. It inspires ALL students by exposing them to previously unimagined college and career opportunities. Linked Learning includes personalized support services that include counseling and supplemental instruction in reading, writing, and math to help students master the rigorous academic and professional skills necessary for success in college and career.