



In a year marked by uncertainty and change, the Linked Learning Alliance advanced policy, practice, and public will to bring high-quality, student-centered learning to more adolescents at a pivotal moment in their lifetimes—and ours. Here we share strides we made together in 2025.

Providing the blueprint for college and career preparation

POLICY PROGRESS

As California makes historic commitments to transforming our state's education and workforce systems for the future, the Linked Learning framework, standards, best practices, and thought leadership put forth by the Alliance are central to this aim.

- **The Golden State Pathways Program is investing \$450 million in Linked Learning practices** built on quality standards we have defined with seasoned Linked Learning practitioners. As the GSPP moves into implementation, the Alliance is helping ensure high-fidelity implementation of these standards as lead partner to the State Technical Assistance Center and several Regional TACs.
- **The Alliance informed and engaged education policymakers and researchers** as an exemplar in career-connected learning, leading an experiential site visit and dialogue in collaboration with the Youth Thriving Through Learning (YTL) Fund and partners.
- **California's \$10 million Secondary School Redesign Pilot includes the Alliance** and six partner Linked Learning districts. We are uniquely equipped to generate data and guide reforms through this endeavor as the pilot cohort's only established statewide collaborative with a history of measurable impact.
- **California's Master Plan for Career Education spotlights Linked Learning** and calls leaders across our state to emulate our approach to education, strengthening pathways, hands-on learning and clear routes to family-sustaining jobs.

Building quality and scale across the Linked Learning network

PRACTICE GROWTH

As the engine driving the Linked Learning movement, the Alliance brings practitioners together to cultivate professional learning, share and deploy evidence-based practices, and advance our work across systems and the state. Our collective gains inform continuous improvement and policy that benefits all youth and communities.

- **The Alliance's 2025 conference convened hundreds** of educators, civic leaders, and employer partners from throughout California and beyond to discover and share innovations in college and career preparation. Our interactive sessions and site visits showcased the distinctive strategies of Linked Learning educators in action.
- **Alliance teams actively guided Linked Learning practice** on the ground, providing grant application support, Linked Learning standards training, site visits, asset mapping, labor market analysis, dual enrollment integration and more to dozens of school communities across California regions.
- **Linked Learning Certification continues to set the standard** for pathway quality, ensuring the high-value, high-coherence learning experiences research links with positive outcomes. In recent years, the Alliance has adapted certification to serve not only high schools but middle schools, with an elementary school certification process in development.

1,000s of participating educators, industry partners, and civic leaders.

82 Linked Learning pathways Certified Gold or Silver for quality and continuous improvement.

600 educational pathways within 250 schools and 80 districts across California.

330,000 current Linked Learning students, expected to reach 660,000 through GSPP.

GOAL:
1 million
students in high-quality pathways by 2030.



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Speaking the truths adolescents want, need, and voice

PUBLIC WILL BUILDING

The Alliance amplifies the voices of students and their communities to ensure their realities and aspirations are known to decision makers. We draw on student perspective to make an authentic, compelling case for high-quality college and career preparation—and focus public attention on this imperative.

- **The Alliance advocated for adolescents** in targeted media outlets, keeping student experiences in the feeds of key decision makers and influencers.
- **The Alliance platformed Linked Learning students and alumni** as panelists in our annual conference and as part of nine experiential site visits that sparked understanding of Linked Learning and its potential.
- **The Alliance's 2025 student survey** captured the perspectives of 1,900 Linked Learning students from seven school districts—81% students of color, 44% first-generation college-bound—and their message was clear: pathway experiences that connect learning to life after school matter deeply, and more students deserve access to them.



"When I discovered what it is I wanted to do for my future, I realized how much more I wanted to be involved in my academics."

—12th Grader, Antelope Valley Union High School District

96% of Linked Learning students rate their high school experience as **valuable**.

80% wish others could have the **same opportunity** to experience a college and career pathway education.



Adolescent thriving matters to every person and community, especially in uncertain times. The progress we made in 2025 demonstrates what's possible when we respond to challenge with focus—centering young people's needs, building on what works, and working together across systems to create pathways to opportunity. The Linked Learning Alliance invites you to join us with renewed purpose in 2026.

Anne Stanton, President
Linked Learning Alliance