

# LINKED LEARNING YOUTH SURVEY

STUDENT INSIGHTS ON THE 2022 SCHOOL YEAR, STATE POLICY, AND MORE



Our state's economic development depends on the success of students like those in Linked Learning pathways. Numbering in the tens of thousands, many are first in their families to pursue a postsecondary credential. With nearly \$2 billion proposed in the California State budget to invest in college and career readiness through approaches like high-quality pathways and dual enrollment, it's even more important to understand the impact these experiences have on California's young people—and to bring their needs and aspirations into the statewide conversation.

The Linked Learning Alliance is fielding a survey\* of young people in Linked Learning college and career pathways throughout the state. This document presents preliminary findings.

## ABOUT SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

**2,018**

Linked Learning  
students  
responded

**51%**

will be a first-  
generation  
college student

**95%** identify as a  
student of color:

African American, Latinx,  
Asian, Native American,  
Two or More Races

**5** school districts  
represented:

Antelope Valley Union  
HSD, Independent Charter,  
Oakland USD, Porterville  
USD, San Bernardino City  
USD

\* This is not considered a scientific survey, and results should not be interpreted as applying to a larger audience of students beyond those who responded.

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY

### Students feel more motivated and prepared in pathways.

Pathway students see the value of their high school experience. The rigorous academics integrated with high-quality career-connected learning leave young people feeling ready for college and career.

**93%** believe their high school experience has been **valuable**

*"It feels amazing to be a student because I still have a lot ahead of me."*

- Freshman, San Bernardino City Unified School District

**81%** feel **seen and respected** by adults in their pathway

*"... my experience has been amazing. I am surrounded by ... teachers who have helped guide me through my high school path and have encouraged me to do things that have helped prepare me for college."*

- Junior, Antelope Valley Union High School District



### Strong connections between high school, college, and career bring coherence to the educational journey.

Linked Learning pathways intentionally connect high school to college and career learning, helping ensure that young people experience smooth transitions and feel well-informed and prepared for each next step toward their educational, professional, and personal goals.

**80%**

have opportunities to apply what they're learning in their academic classes to **real world learning opportunities**

**70%**

have opportunities to **build relationships with mentors** from the business community

**63%**

have opportunities to visit and learn on **college campuses**

## Students feel valued and supported in their pathways.

Like many of their peers, **52% of students feel anxious about their futures**. However, students know the social-emotional supports they receive in their pathway help them succeed. The vast majority feel seen, supported, and heard by their teachers, counselors, and other adults in school.

**77%**

feel their **life experiences and opinions are valued** in their pathway

"... adults who make decisions about education should really and actually try to relate and have empathy for the students instead of piling them with tons of work. [Students should] have a sense of what it's like in college but not feel overwhelmed."

- Freshman, Antelope Valley Union High School District

**84%**

believe their pathway is an **inviting and supportive place** to learn

"I feel like it's a lot easier to be a student today because no matter who you are, there are a lot of accepting people in my pathway."

- Freshman, San Bernardino City Unified School District



## Pathways prepare students for a full range of postsecondary opportunities.

Students feel ready for what comes after school when they're in a college and career pathway. They are able to identify what they want to do after high school, prepare for those goals, and transition confidently into postsecondary.

**72%**

plan on attending a **2- or 4-year college** after high school

**75%**

feel **confident** about their future after high school

**73%**

believe their high school experience has helped them **identify goals** for college and career

**78%**

believe their high school experience is giving them what they need to make a **successful transition** into young adulthood

## Students encourage investments in college and career readiness initiatives.

The California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom have proposed a nearly \$2 billion investment in college and career readiness initiatives, including the Golden State Pathways program and dual enrollment. Some decision-makers have wondered if students really want this kind of educational experience. **Pathway students respond with a resounding yes.**

**78%** support the California State Legislature's proposed investments in college and career readiness

"I believe in some parts of the state this program would be really helpful to a lot of students who wish to further learn their passion or make career decisions after high school. [These programs] should be strongly advocated for."

- Senior, Porterville Unified School District

**83%** wish that other students could have the same opportunity to experience a college and career pathway

"I support the California Legislature's proposal because I think it's a great opportunity for other students... I believe every high school student should have an experience similar to mine."

- Junior, San Bernardino City Unified School District

"As a student, I am curious. I want to know things. Don't limit growing mindsets because you think we're not ready or too young."

- Junior, Antelope Valley Union High School District



## TAKING NEXT STEPS TOGETHER

Despite COVID-related disruptions to their education, Linked Learning students remain steadfast in their plans to achieve postsecondary success. We have an opportunity to deepen our investments in these young people and expand proven approaches to college and career readiness to tens of thousands more.

The **Linked Learning Alliance** is part of a vast community of educators, business leaders, and community partners committed to keeping young people linked to the futures they deserve. Contact the Alliance to find out more about how you can support students in your community: [LinkedListLearning.org](https://www.LinkedListLearning.org).