

GOLDEN STATE PATHWAYS

CALIFORNIA'S SOLUTION FOR RIGOROUS,
RELEVANT, AND CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING

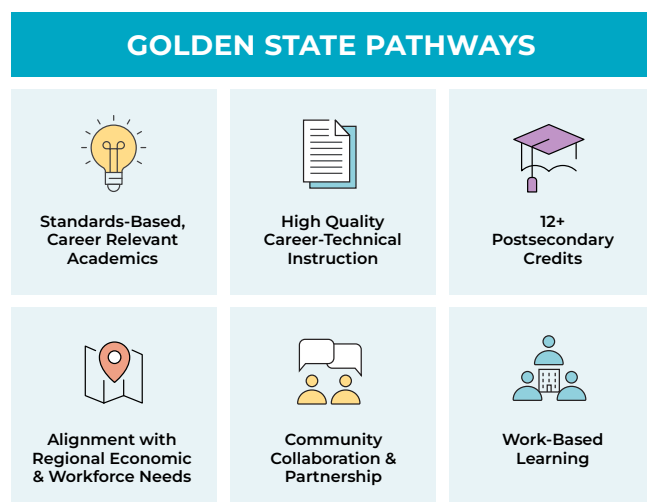


The **Golden State Pathways** program, a \$500 million investment in college and career readiness, leverages a decade of evidence on the power of Linked Learning to build relevant, high-quality college and career pathways in California high schools. Through this once-in-a-generation funding opportunity, communities can keep young people on their path to purpose, deepen and strengthen opportunities for high school students to enter high-growth industries that support local economies, and ensure educational and economic justice for the next generation.

ELEMENTS OF GOLDEN STATE PATHWAYS

The Golden State Pathways program provides grant funding over the course of **five years** to deliver **high-quality college and career pathways** in high-wage, high-skill, high-growth industries. These industry sectors include technology, healthcare, education, STEM, climate-related fields, and other regionally identified workforce needs.

High-quality implementation is crucial for college and career pathways to yield equitable outcomes, as demonstrated by independent research. Communities engaged in Golden State Pathways must adhere to high-quality standards, such as the Linked Learning quality standards, to ensure pathways are implemented with fidelity. These standards are essential for providing students with:



What is a college and career pathway?

In contrast with traditional high school, where college-prep curriculum is confined to the classroom and some students pursue career-tech opportunities separately, pathways like those powered by the Linked Learning approach bring it all together. Rigorous academics are integrated with career technical studies, work-based learning, comprehensive student supports, and accelerated college opportunities like dual enrollment. Pathways help students connect—to real-world relevance and their sense of purpose.

Too many young people, especially those in marginalized groups, face an “or” in high school. Students are deemed to be college material, or not—and they are tracked away from degrees, high-paying jobs, and economic and social mobility. The GSP program activates the “and”—uniting college and career learning to prepare all youth for the full range of postsecondary possibilities.

A NATIONAL MODEL FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER PREPARATION



The GSP investment includes an evidence-based set of metrics, a third-party evaluation, and it is designed to build local and regional capacity make California a national leader in college and career readiness evidence and accountability.



The GSP investment is predicated on cross-sector partnerships between schools, colleges, and employers, and communities will be better connected because of this emphasis.



Investments prioritize districts with large populations of systemically underserved youth, or that are academically struggling. These are the same populations of learners that long-term, independent evaluation finds are most positively impacted by the Linked Learning approach.



Investments work together to build and sustain robust college acceleration strategies and emphasize rich work-based learning experiences, like internships and apprenticeships, which build both professional skills and professional networks leading to greater economic equity.



With declining high school graduation and college enrollment rates, it is clear that students lack fundamental social and emotional supports needed to successfully transition to and through high school, college, and career. These investments are poised to change that by prioritizing student supports.

MEETING THIS MOMENT WITH GOLDEN STATE PATHWAYS

The Golden State Pathway program builds on our state's existing pathways to college and career while fostering a shared vision of student success. Communities have an opportunity to bring together existing programs and approaches, including Dual Enrollment, Community Schools, Career Technical Education Innovation Grant funding, Strong Workforce Program funding, and more under the umbrella of Golden State Pathways to create coherent, engaging, supportive pathways toward postsecondary achievement.



LET'S TALK

To learn more about the Golden State Pathways program and how you can create meaningful college and career learning experiences using the Linked Learning approach, contact info@linkedlearning.org.