

GOING FOR GOLD

Linked Learning is transforming education by engaging young people, connecting schools with postsecondary and employer partners, and producing more equitable outcomes.

Students work harder and dream bigger when their learning connects with them and connects them to the world. Linked Learning delivers what young people need to graduate from high school ready for college and prepared to fully participate in the economy and civic life. Students receive rigorous learning that ignites their passions, relates to their life experiences, and elevates their career aspirations.

Linked Learning integrates academics aligned to college-ready requirements with sequenced, high-quality career-technical education, work-based learning, and comprehensive student supports. Research shows that implementing Linked Learning with fidelity to these

components results in tangible benefits that include higher graduation rates, more credits earned by the end of high school, and development of the mindsets and skills students need to thrive—in, and after, high school.

Districts seek certification from the Linked Learning Alliance to ensure that their college and career pathways are operating with high quality. Certification standards were developed in collaboration with the diverse field of Linked Learning educators, and support continuous improvement for all. Pathways gain Silver certification when they establish the core components of Linked Learning, and achieve Gold certification when they demonstrate high-quality implementation of these components and equitable opportunities for all students. With 12 Gold pathways in California and hundreds of Silver-certified pathways striving for Gold, the Linked Learning field is moving closer to the day when all students have the ability to light their own path to success in college, career, and life.



LINKED LEARNING GOLD CERTIFICATION™

The highest standard for college and career preparation, based on evidence of excellence in integrating the core components of Linked Learning. Learn more: [LinkedLearning.org/Certification](https://www.linkedlearning.org/Certification).

INTEGRATED PROGRAM OF STUDY	WORK-BASED LEARNING	INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS
<p><i>Student-centered learning connected to postsecondary and industry expectations.</i></p> <p>▼</p> <p>Instructional design connects rigorous academics and career-themed coursework.</p> <p>Instructional delivery features equitable access to interdisciplinary learning opportunities.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to demonstrate their learning in many ways, including an annual public presentation.</p> <p>Early college credit opportunities such as dual enrollment are accessible to all students.</p> <p>Postsecondary and industry partners inform the design and assess the effectiveness of the program of study.</p> <p>Students have the opportunity for shared learning through a cohort structure focused on cross-subject projects and work-based learning experiences related to the pathway theme.</p>	<p><i>A continuum of meaningful experiences with work and real-world applications of learning.</i></p> <p>▼</p> <p>Students follow a work-based learning plan that is informed by input from industry partners and tied to the program of study and outcomes defined for their pathway.</p> <p>Students successfully complete multiple experiences ranging from career exploration to training and career preparation.</p> <p>Students have access to formal work-based learning through internships and apprenticeships, including opportunities to gain industry certificates.</p> <p>Students self-assess their work-based learning experiences, connecting these experiences to their academic studies, while also reflecting on their career skills development as well as understanding of their industry of interest.</p> <p>Industry partners evaluate the workplace readiness of each student, including the quality of their preparation, performance, and soft skills.</p>	<p><i>Meeting the developmental needs of each young person to equip all for a successful transition to college and career.</i></p> <p>▼</p> <p>Students experience learning that emphasizes social awareness, self-management, and a mindset of growth and self-efficacy.</p> <p>Teachers and counselors monitor student academic, personal, and social-emotional needs and provide culturally responsive, timely supports, engaging families in student development plans as warranted.</p> <p>Students learn in a culture of high expectations, are introduced to a variety of postsecondary options, and identify individual college and career readiness goals.</p> <p>Students receive guidance to complete college entry tests, financial aid applications, and other requirements for accessing postsecondary education.</p> <p>Students gain job application skills and resources they need to be prepared to enter the workplace, apprenticeships, and certification programs.</p>