

SCALING INNOVATION

**Linked Learning delivers equity and excellence in education.
The Linked Learning Alliance drives quality, expansion, and sustainability of the approach.**

Linked Learning is a proven, systemic approach to transforming education based on this simple idea: students work harder and dream bigger if their learning connects with them, and connects them to the world. By integrating rigorous academics with real-world learning and strong support services, Linked Learning prepares students for success in college, career, and life.

Independent evaluation shows that Linked Learning makes a difference for young people—improving high school graduation rates, decreasing drop-out rates, and boosting the number of credits earned. The approach is especially effective with students who enter ninth grade with low academic achievement. These findings have spurred growth of the Linked Learning field, featuring adoption in 70 California school districts and expansion to 19 other states.

The Linked Learning Alliance serves the coalition of educators, employers, and community organizations dedicated to advancing equity and excellence through access to Linked Learning. Established in 2008 and incorporated as an independent nonprofit in 2015,

the Alliance is the vital hub for the growing Linked Learning movement. Alliance strategies are informed by the insights and aspirations of hundreds of stakeholders, and focus on:

Expanding in high schools: Building on success to gain adoption of Linked Learning in more school districts serving student groups underrepresented in college and high-wage careers.

Bridging the gap to postsecondary: Increasing the number of college and K–12 district partnerships and helping students navigate transitions to higher education and earn postsecondary degrees.

Engaging employers in work-based learning: Attracting more business partners to grow the diverse pipeline of skilled workers that regional economies need.

Influencing national adoption: Sharing knowledge and helping local communities, state and federal agencies, and other key stakeholders identify and establish policies that support high-quality college and career pathways.



"Getting students focused on both college and career and providing them with meaningful time in real-world workplaces are the key ingredients to success for our kids."

– Dr. Dale Marsden,
Superintendent,
San Bernardino City Unified

ESSENTIAL ROLES

The Linked Learning Alliance conducts four crucial roles to advance Linked Learning as an education approach that benefits all young people, strengthens communities, and fuels regional economies.



STANDARD SETTER

Based on evidence of positive effects for students, the Alliance drives adoption of standards to ensure quality and equity in implementation of Linked Learning.

School districts seek certification through the Alliance to ensure that their pathways are operating with the fidelity required to benefit all young people. Earning certification demonstrates commitment to student outcomes and enhances the work of K–12 educators, colleges, and employers.



FIELD DRIVER

Based on proof that Linked Learning is a systemic solution, the Alliance mobilizes key actors to align and amplify investments through the approach.

K–12 educators, postsecondary institutions, employers, community-based organizations, and government agencies collaborate to deliver Linked Learning. The Alliance supports them with programs that introduce interested partners to the approach, provide hosted site visits and professional learning events for practitioners, facilitate access to technical experts, and generate timely research.



COMMUNICATOR

Based on the public value derived from Linked Learning, the Alliance champions this approach—providing a clear, consistent, and equity-focused voice for the field.

The Alliance creates messages and communication resources for use by field members and leads campaigns to elevate visibility for Linked Learning, increase awareness of its proven benefits, spotlight its implementation in a range of communities, promote cross-sector support for the approach, and cultivate field-wide identity for the movement.



ADVOCATE

Based on Linked Learning's relevance in a range of local contexts, the Alliance leads efforts to inform policymakers and the public regarding the distinct features and enduring value of the approach.

The Alliance makes the case for Linked Learning and its ability to transform the lives of young people. It trumpets supportive local, state, and federal policies that unlock the enabling conditions and resources needed to implement high-quality college and career pathways for students.

The Linked Learning Alliance is a large and diverse coalition that advances a practical, proven approach to transforming education at a systems level. Our focus on equity and quality is activated through strategies designed to scale a California innovation and serve students, communities, and economies throughout and beyond our home state. To achieve greater impact, faster, the Alliance needs additional partners. We welcome conversations with educators, employers, community leaders, and all who share our belief in all young people and their unlimited potential.



OUR GOAL:

ONE MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN GOLD CERTIFIED LINKED LEARNING PATHWAYS BY 2030