

What to Expect as You Go for Gold



Most pathway teams who pursue Linked Learning Gold Certification agree: The process of getting there is itself incredibly valuable. On the journey they learn and grow, find support and fresh energy—and build enthusiasm for developing increasingly relevant, high-quality learning experiences for their students.



A SUPPORTIVE EXPERIENCE

When you're going for Linked Learning Gold Certification, you're never alone. Part of this process involves establishing your own local team focused on pathway certification, which surrounds you with a breadth of insight and support. The certification process also involves the Linked Learning Alliance and experienced Linked Learning practitioners who not only review your progress toward the standards but also offer well-founded ideas and suggestions to help you achieve them.

A THREE-MONTH PROCESS

Certification typically takes about 12 weeks. See more detail on each step on the next page.



STEPS TOWARD CERTIFICATION

- 1 Prepare your certification team.** You establish a team of CTE and core academic teachers, site and district administrators, and parents and students, who can play an active role through your pathway certification journey. Together, you examine the Linked Learning Gold Certification standards and assess your readiness to proceed. You complete a simple application to express your intent.
- 2 Collaborate with a pathway review leader.** The Alliance selects an independent lead reviewer to guide and support your team. This person explains the process in greater detail, answers any questions, and helps you begin using the online certification platform.
- 3 Collect and submit evidence.** With guidance from your review leader, your pathway team gathers data and artifacts to provide evidence that you're meeting each standard. You upload this information to the certification platform.
- 4 Participate in preliminary review.** In an online session with your review leader and other experienced Linked Learning reviewers, your certification team discusses how you're meeting each standard, offering context for the evidence you've provided. Together, you'll get clarity on any gaps and questions that should be addressed before certification.
- 5 Prepare and host a site visit.** Your certification team collaborates with the review team to host them for an in-person visit to your pathway. This visit includes an overview presentation, classroom observations, and focus groups. Site visits typically involve pathway teachers, school administrators, industry partners, parents, and students.
- 6 Receive your final certification report.** Considering all the evidence you have shared and observations the review team has made, your lead reviewer prepares a final report. This report may highlight strengths, recommend certification, and identify areas for improvement in alignment with the standards.



In going for Gold, we were able to accomplish many important goals which have benefitted our students and our academy. We appreciated having a target to work toward. It helped us bring all of our efforts into focus."

**LINKED LEARNING GOLD
PATHWAY PRACTITIONER**

Upon certification, congratulate your team and plan next steps! The Linked Learning Alliance will also promote your achievement in several ways, including a Certification Celebration in conjunction with our annual conference.



READY TO GET STARTED?

Access the complete standards at linkedlearning.org/certification.

Reach out for support and answers to your questions:
pathways@linkedlearning.org.