



**LEADING THE MOVEMENT
TO CONNECT ALL YOUTH TO COLLEGE,
CAREER, AND PURPOSE**

The Linked Learning Alliance believes in the unlimited potential of all young people.



The Alliance is the engine that drives the Linked Learning movement—a national coalition of educators, employers, and community organizations dedicated to success for all young people.

Our mission: Bring Linked Learning to scale, and help the nation embrace high-quality college and career preparation for all youth.

Our vision: Every young person determines their own future. All should have what some have today—genuine access to postsecondary education as well as supports to gain a credential and high-skill job by age 25.

Our focus: The decade of difference—ages 14 to 24.

Young people develop core intellectual, emotional, and social abilities in these years, forming their adult identity. We emphasize high school success in the context of vital transitions—from middle school to 9th grade, from 12th grade to postsecondary, from college to career.

The solution: Education that engages all young people by combining college *and* career preparation, helping each discover their purpose. Research shows that Linked Learning inspires students and helps them gain the academic and job skills to flourish in the economy of the future. Education that is relevant to young people's lives, blending classroom and career-based learning, works for every student. It is especially powerful for those at risk of joining the six million youth who are not in school or working today.

THE ALLIANCE CREATES CHANGE THROUGH LINKED LEARNING

Linked Learning transforms student experiences—bringing meaning and motivation to the school day. It puts each young person at the center of high-quality learning, surrounded by adults and structures dedicated to their growth.

Schools and academies adapt Linked Learning to fit their contexts. Students learn through career-themed pathways tied to local industries. The approach integrates four crucial elements:

- Rigorous academics aligned to admissions requirements for state colleges and universities.
- Career technical training, delivering concrete knowledge and skills through a structured sequence of courses.
- Work-based learning, providing real-world experience via job shadowing, apprenticeships, internships, and more.
- Comprehensive support services, including counseling and supplemental instruction tailored to individual needs.



IN 15 YEARS, THE ALLIANCE HAS TURNED CALIFORNIA'S LINKED LEARNING EXPERIMENT INTO A NATIONAL MOVEMENT.

Advancing equity through college and career preparation. Linked Learning was created to stop the harm done to generations of young people, especially those in marginalized groups, who faced an “or” in high school. Students were deemed to be college material, or not. Millions were tracked away from degrees, high-paying jobs, and economic and social mobility. Linked Learning activates the “and”—uniting college and career curricula to ready all youth for a full range of postsecondary options.

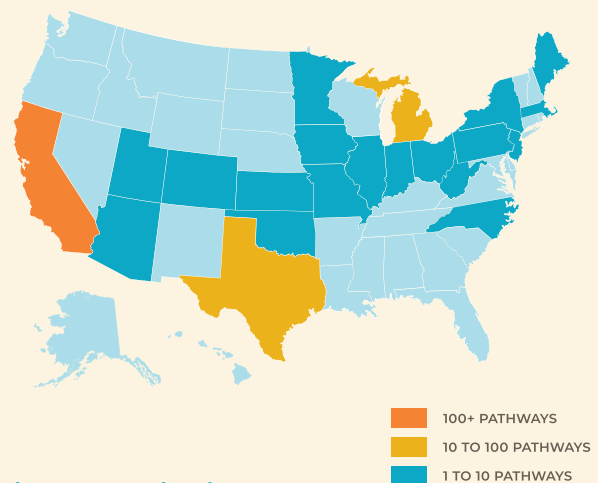
Moving from pilot to proof to expansion. Evaluation by SRI International was infused into the development of Linked Learning—along with attention to policy and communication as keys to scaling the approach. Linked Learning was piloted in California high schools beginning in 2006. Results led to system-wide demonstration in nine school districts beginning in 2009. Positive student outcomes proved the value of this approach, attracting \$2 billion in state funds for expansion beginning in 2013—and sparking nationwide interest.

Building a vibrant field. The Linked Learning Alliance interacts with local and state leaders seeking to improve youth outcomes, helping them investigate and initiate Linked Learning. We connect partners implementing the approach, so they can grow their networks and impact through collaboration. We provide a strong identity for this field, helping partners gain visibility and fuel local expansion and sustainability of Linked Learning.

Evidence propels adoption.

SRI's multi-year evaluation found that students in certified Linked Learning pathways had decreased dropout rates, higher graduation rates, more credits earned, and improved workplace skills compared with peers in traditional high schools. Linked Learning had especially positive effects for students with low prior academic achievement.

Black students in certified Linked Learning pathways earned 15.2 more credits than peers. College-going Black students were 11.6 percentage points more likely to enroll in a four-year than a two-year institution.



Linked Learning is now in 20 states, serving 250,000 young people.

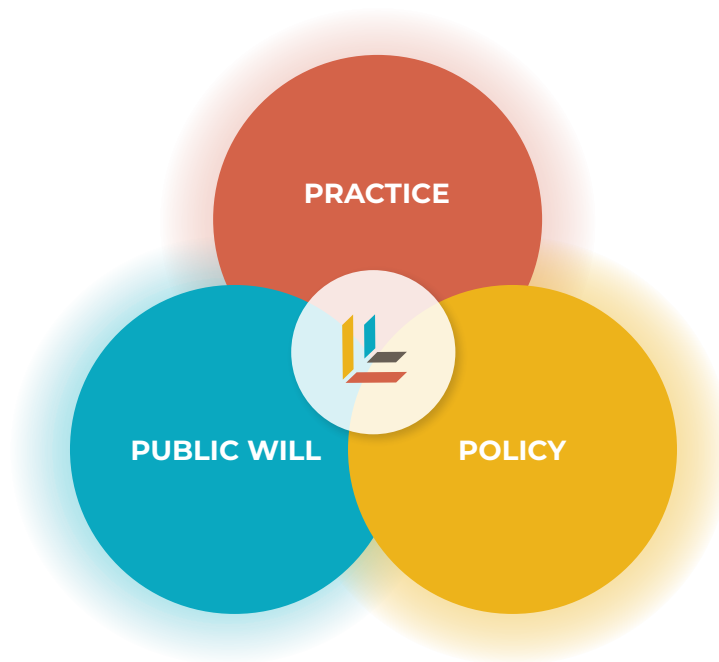


OUR GOAL:

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

GROWING IMPACT: THREE STRATEGIC LEVERS

The Linked Learning Alliance works at the intersection of practice, policy, and public will to expand Linked Learning's scale and quality.



Creating public will for equity and excellence in education.

Amplifying the voices of students and educators; making their assets, needs, and hopes known by the public and policymakers

Making the case and building public commitment, and political will, for high-quality college and career preparation

Joining with corporate, education, and nonprofit partners to align messaging and expand the reach and effect of outreach promoting Linked Learning

Elevating the practice of Linked Learning.

Setting quality standards; supporting and celebrating effective practice through rigorous certification of Linked Learning pathways

Hosting Linked Learning institutes and peer learning events for educators and their local partners

Analyzing data from Linked Learning sites; commissioning research to inform practice improvement as well as expansion of the approach (e.g., implementing Linked Learning in alternative high schools)

Advancing policies that champion all youth.

Providing Linked Learning research and outcomes to local, state, and national policymakers involved with youth development, educational and economic equity, workforce development, and related topics

Using data and insights from Linked Learning practice to generate strategies for scaling high-quality college and career preparation

Advocating for education, economic, and social policies that prioritize high-quality college and career preparation as means to benefit all youth and communities

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The Linked Learning Alliance gives America hope—and proof—that educators, employers, and communities can work together to create real opportunity for all youth.

Since 2006, the Linked Learning field has gone from zero to more than 250,000 students in integrated college and career pathways each year.

Today, an audacious ambition is possible:

Together with committed funders and partners, we can scale Linked Learning to benefit one million students annually by 2030.

We welcome your interest in exploring ways the Linked Learning Alliance can collaborate with you to improve outcomes and expand opportunity for young people in their decade of difference.

Students work harder and dream bigger when their learning connects with them, and connects them to the world. That's the power of Linked Learning.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IMPACT

Contact us to learn more about Linked Learning evaluation, pathways quality and certification, and the diverse set of districts and schools implementing this approach to benefit their students and communities.



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