



## Linked Learning Pathway Design: Getting Started

Linked Learning is a framework that transforms education systems and student experiences. It puts each young person at the center of high-quality learning, surrounded by adults and structures dedicated to their growth. Pathways, schools, districts, and entire communities adapt Linked Learning to drive student success in their local contexts. Linked Learning is most effective when it is implemented in close collaboration with students, educators, and community members including industry and postsecondary partners.

Use this document to determine key steps and considerations for designing a Linked Learning pathway. We have included links to the Linked Learning standards for each of the steps and relevant resources/examples related to that step. As you begin designing a Linked Learning pathway, please note that these are not necessarily sequential steps and will vary based on the context. This work involves multiple systems coming together—education, workforce and postsecondary—and there are challenges and barriers to ensuring young people, particularly those with high need, get the educational experiences and supports that position them for the full range of postsecondary options. Linked Learning is a systemic approach to education that addresses the complex equity challenges in schools, districts, and communities. **Now, let’s get started!**

Vision, Planning and Pathway Co-Design			
#	Action/Goal	LLA Standard	Resources
1.	<p><b>Identify Community Stakeholders and Begin Developing Shared Understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a diverse and inclusive set of community stakeholders and their assets, needs, and aspirations for their students.</li> <li>Engage in collective sense making to build shared understanding of why your community stakeholders are interested in Linked Learning or an integrated approach to college and career pathways.</li> <li>Discuss and learn about high-quality pathways using the Linked Learning standards and research with your community stakeholders. Participate in site visits to established Linked Learning pathways when possible.</li> </ul>	LL G1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Linked Learning Approach</a></li> <li><a href="#">Linked Learning Resource Library and Research</a></li> </ul>

2.	<p><b>Determine Current and Desired State of College and Career Pathways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collectively determine the current state of career technical education, college and career readiness structures and supports, instruction, assessment, and pathways or academies.</li> <li>Collectively agree on the desired state or vision for pathways.</li> <li>Discuss with stakeholders a vision for a high-quality pathway or systems of pathways.</li> <li>Notice what barriers are in the way of achieving equitable outcomes for students.</li> <li>Determine the systems, structures, and processes that could be assets or barriers.</li> </ul>	LL G1.2 LL G1.3 LL S1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">K-14 Career Pathways Mapping Toolkit (CLP)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Linked Learning Practice Development Opportunities</a></li> <li><a href="#">Behaviors of Teaching and Learning (ConnectEd)</a></li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Build Pathway Design Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build agency and capacity in the community and school by co-designing your pathways with a diverse and inclusive set of stakeholders.</li> <li>Form a pathway design team of diverse stakeholders including teachers, students, administrators, and community members.</li> <li>Develop a charter that defines the work and processes for this group.</li> <li>Review current and desired state for pathways in your context.</li> </ul>	LL G1.2 LL G1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Self-Study Tool</a></li> <li><a href="#">Self-Study Action Planning Template</a></li> <li><a href="#">Post-Secondary Partnership Tool</a></li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Establish Partnerships and Community Advisory Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify partners and establish an advisory committee consisting of higher education, workforce and community partners to support the design and implementation of the pathway.</li> <li>With key partners, identify and refine pathway theme based on the following factors: local labor market; postsecondary opportunities; student interest; faculty interest; facilities.</li> </ul>	LL G1.5  LL G2.1  LL S2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Chamber of Commerce Directory</a></li> <li><a href="#">California Labor Market Projections</a></li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Refine Pathway Vision and Mission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building from the earlier work, develop a draft pathway vision and mission that aligns with your community’s vision for their students and the stated goals and priorities of the school or district.</li> </ul>	LL G1.2 LL G1.3  LL S1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">K-14 Career Pathways Mapping Toolkit (CLP)</a></li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Define Student Outcomes and Explore Potential Shifts in Teaching and Learning</b></p>	LL G1.2 LL G3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">State Accountability Report Card</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboratively draft pathway student outcomes based on the district graduate profile and input from higher education and workforce partners.</li> <li>• Begin to explore and identify potential shifts or changes needed in instructional strategies, assessment practices, work-based learning and integrated student supports that will support student success.</li> </ul>	<p>LL S1.4 LL S3.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CA School Dashboard</a></li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Develop Pathway Program of Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backwards map pathway program of study that includes an integrated sequence of CTE courses, core academic courses, work-based learning, accelerated college opportunities, and integrated student supports. This can include developing a pathway map that includes postsecondary partners and programs.</li> </ul>	<p>LL G1.1 LL G1.2 LL G1.4  LL S1.2 LL S1.4 LL S2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Program of Study Template</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Example Program of Studies</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Integrated Student Support Framework (Gardner Center)</a></li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Review and Revise Master Schedule and Student Recruitment Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review master schedule and identify design principles and priorities for developing a schedule to support pathway vision and student outcomes, ensure equitable access to full program of study, and incorporate dedicated time for teacher collaboration and professional learning.</li> <li>• Develop/revise student recruitment materials and plans, including flyers, labor market data, and programs of study. Recruitment plan should include strategies to deeply engage parents, community, and business partners and ensure students of all backgrounds have equitable access to the pathway.</li> </ul>	<p>LL G1.1  LL S1.1 LL S1.2  LL S3.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">LLA Master Scheduling Webinar</a></li> </ul>