

CONNECTED: LINKED LEARNING

WORK BASED LEARNING VIRTUAL TOUR BRIEF

INNOVATIVE PATHWAY MODEL

Adapted from information found on the ConnectEd public website and Fifth-Year Evaluation Report.



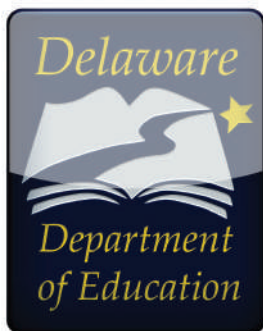
LINKED LEARNING®

GROWTH

Linked learning began in nine school districts in 2009 through the District Initiative with funding from the James Irvin Foundation. Through state support (Assembly Bill 790 Linked Learning Pilot Program) in 2012 another 63 districts joined the movement and adopted the approach. When the pilot is fully implemented, Linked learning will be available to more than one third (approximately 600,000) of California's high school students.

In the December 2014 Fifth-Year Evaluation of the Linked Learning District Initiative evaluators found that 87% of twelfth-grade students reported having participated in at least one work-based learning experience in the prior year. They also found the following participation rates for all students by activity (see WBL Programs page 2.)

Additional information available at <http://www.connectedcalifornia.org/home>



OVERVIEW

ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing practice, policy, and research aimed at **helping young people** prepare for both college and career through **Linked Learning** — a high school improvement approach.

Linked Learning transforms students' high school experience by bringing together strong academics, demanding technical education, and real world experience that helps students gain an advantage in high school, postsecondary education, and careers. Linked Learning students follow industry-themed pathways in a wide range of fields, such as engineering, arts and media, biomedicine and health. These pathways prepare high school students for career and a full range of postsecondary options, including attending a 2- or 4-year college or university, an apprenticeship, the military, and formal employment training. A well-designed pathway consists of four core components:

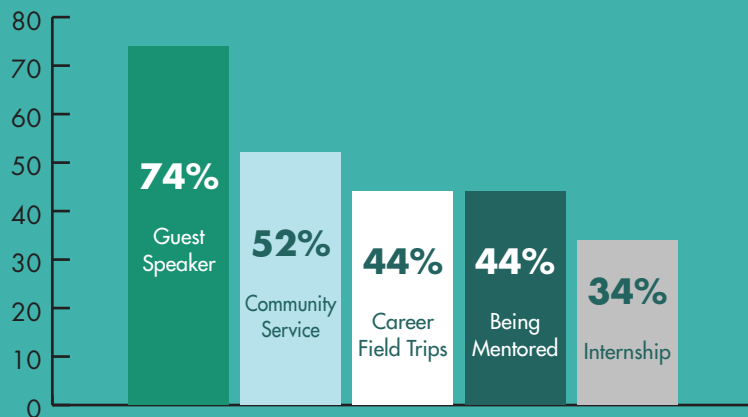
Rigorous academics. The academic component of Linked Learning includes college preparatory English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and foreign language courses.

Real-world technical skills. A challenging technical component of three or more courses that help students gain the knowledge and skills that can give them a head start on a successful career.

Work-based learning. A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships.

Personalized supports. Support services including counseling and supplemental instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics that help students master the academic and technical learning.

WBL PARTICIPATION 2013-14



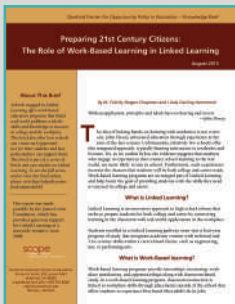
WBL PROGRAMS

CONNECTED:
LINKED LEARNING

RESOURCES

Click on documents below to dig deeper into Linked Learning's WBL resources

Role of WBL in Linked Learning



WBL Toolbox



A high quality work-based learning program does not place college- and career-readiness into separate silos but instead connects rigorous academic classroom learning with vocational coursework that merges in-classroom experiences with industry-related opportunities.

– Preparing 21st Century Citizens: The Role of Work-Based Learning in Linked Learning (August, 2013)

Program	Grades Targeted	Sample Activities
<p>Career Awareness – Learning ABOUT Work Build awareness of the variety of careers available and the role of postsecondary education; broaden student options.</p> <p><i>Experience Defined by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time interaction with partner(s), often for a group of students • Designed primarily by adults to broaden student's awareness of a wide variety of careers and occupations 	9th grade and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace tour • Guest speaker • Career fair • Visit parents at work
<p>Career Exploration – Learning About Work Explore career options and postsecondary for the purpose of motivating students and to inform their decision making in high school and postsecondary education.</p> <p><i>Experience Defined by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-time interaction with partner(s) for a single student or small group • Personalized to connect to emerging student interests. • Student takes an active role in selecting and shaping the experience • Depth in particular career fields. • Builds skills necessary for in-depth work-based learning 	10th grade and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational interview • Job Shadowing • Virtual exchange with a partner
<p>Career Preparation – Learning THROUGH Work Apply learning through practical experience that develops knowledge and skills necessary for success in careers and postsecondary education.</p> <p><i>An Experience Differentiated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct interaction with partners over time • Application of skills transferable to a variety of careers • Activities have consequences and value beyond success in the classroom • Learning for student and benefit to partner are equally valued 	11th and 12th grades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated projects with multiple • interactions with professionals • Student-run enterprises with partner involvement • Paid Internship connected to curriculum • Service learning and social enterprises with partners
<p>Career Training – Learning FOR Work Train for employment and/or postsecondary education in a specific range of occupations.</p> <p><i>An Experience Differentiated by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction with partners over extended period of time • Benefit to the partner is primary and learning for student is secondary • Develop mastery of occupation specific skills • Complete certifications or other requirements of a specific range of occupations 	11th grade through early post-secondary and ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship • Apprenticeship • Clinical experience • On-the-job training • Work experience

LAUNCHPATH



Linked Learning leadership also collaborated in the development of **LaunchPath**, an online tool designed to connect employers, educators, and students to strengthen the workforce and close the skills gap in California. Through internships and work-based learning experiences, prepared high school and community college students have the opportunity to make substantive contributions and gain valuable experience. LaunchPath saves time, reduces risk, simplifies partnerships, and accelerates talent acquisition. LaunchPath is a joint project of the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the Linked Learning Alliance, made possible through seed funding by JPMorgan Chase Global Philanthropy and sustained through a combination of public and private support.