

LINKED LEARNING

From ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career:

What is Linked Learning?

“Linked learning is an approach to education that transforms the traditional high school experience by bringing together strong academics, a demanding technical education, and real-world experience to help students gain an advantage in high school, postsecondary education, and careers. Students can choose among industry-themed pathways in fields such as engineering, arts and media, and biomedicine and health.

Linked Learning:

- Offers students personally-relevant, wholly-engaging, and rigorous academic, and technical curricula combined with exposure to real-world professions.
- Helps prepare students to graduate from high school well prepared to enter a two-or four-year college or university, an apprenticeship and formal job training.
- Exposes many students in school to previously unimagined college and career opportunities.

Four Components of Linked Learning:

- 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. “

From the James Irvine Foundation:

LINKED LEARNING

“Linked Learning integrates real-world professions with rigorous academics, transforming education into a personally relevant, wholly engaging experience --- and opening students to career and college opportunities they never imagined.

Many young people, especially those in low-income households, have untapped potential to participate more fully in the workforce and community life. With deeper knowledge and skills, and stronger high school graduation rates, Linked Learning can help many more of California’s youth gain the capacities and opportunities needed for postsecondary education and high-wage

employment.

Four Elements Define Linked Learning

Linked Learning builds on more than four decades of experience gained by California schools that combine academic and technical content to generate high student achievement. It combines four elements that research identifies as vital to student success:

Challenging academics: A rigorous academic core curriculum featuring instruction in essential college preparatory subjects such as English, math, science, social studies, foreign language and visual and performing arts.

Technical skills and knowledge: A demanding combination of career and technical coursework emphasizing the practical use of academic learning and preparing youth for high-skill, high-wage employment.

Work-based learning: A range of opportunities to learn through meaningful real-world experiences, including internships, apprenticeships and school-based enterprises.

Support services: Academic and social supports, such as counseling and additional instruction in reading, writing and mathematics, with the goal of helping all students succeed in and outside school.

Young People Choose Their Own Pathways to Success

Linked Learning is powerful because it is relevant, guided by student interests and workforce opportunities. The four elements of this approach are delivered through career pathways, comprehensive programs of study that connect learning in the classroom with real-world applications outside of school. Students select a pathway of their choice.

Pathways are designed to match the needs of 15 major industries in California, ranging from engineering to health sciences to digital media arts.

Connections Create Relevance --- and Results

A recent evaluation shows that students participating in Linked Learning are on track for high school graduation, preparing for college and building skills for career and life.

These achievements are possible because Linked Learning works in a comprehensive way. It improves the systems that serve youth, helping them graduate from high school ready to enter college or other training, succeed at the postsecondary level, and reconnect if they are out of school and want to earn a degree or credential.

Linked Learning also engages employers in education, so California schools produce graduates ready for high-skill, high-wage employment. Administrators, teachers, parents and community leaders across the state are embracing this approach as the means to reform and improve equity in education. “

<http://irvine.org/grantmaking/our-programs/youth/linked-learning>

Note: There are also links to several videos about Linked Learning available on the same Linked Learning page on the James Irvine Foundation website.

See also the ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career website at

www.connectedcalifornia.org AND the Linked Learning Alliance website at

<http://www.linkedlearning.org>