2016 SNAPSHOLT:
LINKED LEARNING
IN MOTION

It's about equity, belief in the
potential of young people and
the future of California.

Click here
to start.
Linked Learning is a successful approach to education based on the idea that students work harder and dream bigger if their education is relevant to them. It prepares students to graduate from high school ready for college, and with skills needed to thrive in the workplace.

**Transforming Education**

A successful approach to education

Linked Learning integrates four core components that research shows improve student outcomes.

- **Rigorous academics**
- **Career-technical education courses in sequence**
- **Work-based learning in real-world workplaces**
- **Comprehensive support services**

**Students ready for college, career and life.**

Inspiring students to work harder and dream bigger

The Linked Learning approach to education creates meaningful and relevant experiences in career fields that interest students, called pathways.

850,000 California youth, ages 16 to 24 are neither in school nor working.

They can expect unemployment or low wages.

Irvine has invested more than $100 million in Linked Learning as the best way to give all California youth the opportunity to reach their potential.

Elizabeth González, Irvine Youth Portfolio Director
A strong field is advancing Linked Learning as an approach that works for all students in California. Since 2009, the field has made significant and steady gains.

**CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Click a year to see the growing number participating in a certified Linked Learning pathway.

**LINKED LEARNING ALLIANCE**

- 6 State agencies
- 33 Business, industry and trade organizations
- 54 Education organizations and associations

See the full list of Alliance members.

**FROM DEMONSTRATION TO FIELD BUILDING**

Harvard Graduate School of Education looks at Linked Learning.
PROGRESS

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CREATE THE FRAMEWORK AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Linked Learning builds on decades of experience gained by California schools that combine academic and career-based learning to generate high student achievement.

In 2009, Irvine funded The Bridgespan Group to produce a framework for developing a strong Linked Learning field. Irvine's investments have been made based on this field-building approach, including support for two vital organizations.


The Linked Learning Alliance is a statewide coalition of education, industry and community organizations that is expanding access for California's young people to Linked Learning.

View the set of Irvine Linked Learning grantee organizations.

Read The Strong Field Framework from The Bridgespan Group.

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CASE STUDY
PROGRESS

A strong field is advancing Linked Learning as an approach that works for all students in California. Since 2009, the field has made significant and steady gains.

With Irvine support, a network of 16 high schools, occupational programs and nonprofit organizations providing elective courses has delivered Linked Learning programs to thousands of California high school students beginning in 2006. They represented urban and rural communities spanning the state.

An evaluation during the 2007–08 academic year compared the achievement of participating students with statewide averages. Participants showed higher graduation rates and better pass rates on the California High School Exit Exam. They demonstrated deeper engagement in school and completed more courses needed to prepare for California’s four-year public colleges.

Click a year to see the growing number participating in a certified Linked Learning pathway.

13,000

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS


View the network of Linked Learning demonstration sites.

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EXTEND IN DISTRICTS AND BEYOND

With support and leadership from The James Irvine Foundation, a growing field of educators, providers and partners is working together to make Linked Learning available to youth across the state.

Strengthening school districts: The California Linked Learning District Initiative demonstrates how a systemic approach to Linked Learning works in nine school districts and communities. The 281,000 students these districts serve are predominately non-white and economically disadvantaged. Evaluation shows participants on track for high school graduation, preparing for college and building career and life skills.

Connecting through colleges: Postsecondary institutions prepare teachers to instruct in Linked Learning schools. Community colleges and the California State University system are using Linked Learning to increase relevance and achievement in the classroom.

Engaging out-of-school youth: The Opportunity Links for Youth Initiative applies Linked Learning to re-engage those who are no longer in school, who are underemployed or unemployed, and who are actively seeking a way into college.

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Click a year to see the growing number participating in a certified Linked Learning pathway.

18,200

includes current and previously certified pathways

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CASE STUDY
With mounting evidence that Linked Learning helps students graduate and prepare for success in college and career, the State of California has committed approximately $2 billion to help schools and regions establish and expand Linked Learning pathways.

The State Linked Learning Pilot Program includes 63 districts and county offices of education. Together, these agencies serve more than 600,000 high school students, 30 percent of California’s total. Irvine grantmaking is adapting to reflect this remarkable expansion of Linked Learning.

Linked Learning Pilot Program, California Department of Education

In addition, the state legislature established a $500 million California Career Pathways Trust. This major investment encourages regional partnerships between schools and industry and boosts and affirms the value of work-based learning, a core Linked Learning element.

Sources: Linked Learning Alliance, news release, 2013; California Department of Education, CalEdFacts, Linked Learning Alliance fact sheet

### California High School Students

Click a year to see the growing number participating in a certified Linked Learning pathway.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Linked Learning Alliance

- **6** State agencies
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### From Demonstration to Field Building

Harvard Graduate School of Education looks at Linked Learning.
The success of Linked Learning is fueled by studies that test its effectiveness, document its outcomes and inform its practitioners. View the three types of activity vital to expanding and enhancing this approach throughout California.

**EVIDENCE**

The James Irvine Foundation

**SRI International**

*conducting a rigorous, independent evaluation of the Linked Learning District Initiative.*

**OUR FOCUS**

This multiyear evaluation documents results and lessons from nine districts applying Linked Learning systemically, and measures the effect of this comprehensive implementation on student outcomes.

**WHAT'S NEXT**

The coming year brings the first opportunity to assess how well Linked Learning graduates fare compared with similar peers as they transition to postsecondary endeavors. This new analysis will also focus on California districts sustaining and scaling the Linked Learning approach, expanding work-based learning opportunities and smoothing students' postsecondary transitions.

**FINDINGS**

**Success factors are known**

Systemic implementation of Linked Learning requires essential district structures, attention to critical components of pathways and effective external supports.

**Students earn more credits**

+13.3 credits completed by Linked Learning students over four years in high school.

**Students are more engaged**

+3.7 percentage points more likely to graduate from high school.

**Students gain career and life skills**

(percentage point differences between pathway and comparison students)

- +20 achieve a shared goal
- +21 working with people
- +22 present to a group
- +22 create a resume
- +12 responsible for work quality
- +10 can reach goals
- +8 set goals for school success
- +16 can learn hard content

**COLLABORATION**

**PROFESSIONALISM**

**MINDSET**
The success of Linked Learning is fueled by studies that test its effectiveness, document its outcomes and inform its practitioners. View the three types of activity vital to expanding and enhancing this approach throughout California.

**Evaluation**

**Research**

**Improvement**

Multiple studies show that Linked Learning improves student outcomes and provides a basis for systemic high school reform.

**OUR FOCUS**

Linked Learning and other similar approaches have been the subject of past research demonstrating positive results for students.

Several studies funded by Irvine complement the Linked Learning District Initiative evaluation and deepen understanding of how systemic implementation of the approach increases impact on student achievement in high school, college and career.

**WHAT’S NEXT**

A study of Linked Learning district systems that will provide a cost-benefit analysis to inform policymakers on expected investment and return.

**FINDINGS**

**Greater postsecondary enrollment**

9%** more**

Linked Learning students attended four-year postsecondary education, compared to their peers.

**Reduced barriers to success**

72% of Linked Learning students agree:

“**I know a lot about college and career planning.”**

**Increased income after high school**

Male students participating in programs combining academics and career preparations earned **$10,000 MORE** in the four years following high school.

**Higher high school graduation rates**

95% of 12th-grade students in California Partnership Academies graduated compared to 85% of 12th-grade students statewide.
The success of Linked Learning is fueled by studies that test its effectiveness, document its outcomes and inform its practitioners. View the three types of activity vital to expanding and enhancing this approach throughout California.

A Linked Learning data system developed by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change gives districts information to fuel continuous improvement.

**Our Focus**
Provide timely data on student enrollment and achievement for district leaders, generating information to help them monitor and improve pathway development and student success.

**Helpful Signs**
Current data indicates positive trends in areas including pass rates, a–g completion, GPA, 10th-grade California High School Exit Examination testing, postsecondary enrollment, dual enrollment in high school and college, and number of suspensions. This descriptive data does not control for student background factors considered in the SRI International evaluation, but points to encouraging progress for Linked Learning.

**Sample Data for Participating Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive postsecondary enrollment</th>
<th>Positive engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>7% more</strong> Linked Learning students enrolled in college the year after graduation, compared to their peers.</td>
<td>Linked Learning participants average 3+ additional days at school compared with non-participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive academic achievement</th>
<th>Continued focus on equity needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>74.2%</strong> of Linked Learning participants passed the CASHEE in 10th grade compared with <strong>62.4%</strong> of non-pathway students.</td>
<td><strong>69.2%</strong> of Linked Learning participants are <strong>African American or Hispanic</strong> compared to <strong>75.7%</strong> of non-pathway students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on a guiding vision for Linked Learning developed and owned by the field, this approach is being advanced in multiple ways.

**STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY**

Connecting the people who believe in the values and purpose of Linked Learning, including:
- Employer partners
- Community-based organizations
- Education support organizations
- Policymakers
- Researchers
- School administrators
- Students and parents
- Teachers

**SPREADING THE PRACTICE**

We are bringing high-quality Linked Learning programs to more of the places where young people live and learn: high school districts, colleges and community centers that serve those who have left school.

**ENGAGING THE PUBLIC**

We are inviting people and organizations across the state to learn about the benefits of Linked Learning, and to support expansion of this approach as a way to enrich youth and communities throughout California.

**INFORMING THE POLICYMAKERS**

We are sharing results with education decision makers to encourage further expansion of Linked Learning at the local, regional and state levels.

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE STATEWIDE PILOT AND THE CAREER PATHWAYS TRUST:**

Write or call your state assemblyperson and senator to express your support for the continued expansion of Linked Learning.
Hear the insights and experiences of Linked Learning participants and champions.

The Story of Whoa
Hear the insights and experiences of Linked Learning participants and champions.

The Story of Whoa

Raul, Student

Noemi, Student

Dalton, Student

Walter, Student

Arely, Student

Destiny, Student

Students

Parents

Teachers

District Leaders

Business Partners

Policymakers

Other