

Student and Parent Fact Sheet

Linked Learning

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

Four Core Components of Linked Learning

- **Rigorous academics.** An academic component that includes college preparatory English, mathematics, science, history, and sometimes foreign language courses.
- **Real-world technical skills.** A challenging career-based 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 support.** Support services including counseling and supplemental instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics that help students master the academic and technical learning.

Proven Success

- Research shows that Linked Learning students of all demographic profiles have higher persistence and graduation rates than their peers at traditional high schools.

Learn What You Love

- Students select an education pathway based on their personal and career interests. The pathways reflect California's largest economic industry sectors, ranging from arts, media, and entertainment to engineering and design, health science and medical technology, among others.
- Selecting a pathway in high school does not determine a student's lifelong career path. Instead it enhances the high school experience by exposing students to a range of professions and develops students' skills and confidence that are needed in any profession.
- Linked Learning includes a college preparatory curriculum that helps complete the necessary coursework for admission to a University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU). Many students do find their calling in life after high school.
- Students gain real-world experience and connections with professionals in their field of interest through paid internships, job shadowing, and apprenticeships.

Leave High School Prepared for Success

- As of 2010, 59 percent of jobs require a postsecondary credential. By 2018, this figure will grow to 63 percent of all jobs, a trend that is likely to continue to grow.ⁱ
- Barely one-third of all students who graduate high school (36 percent) complete all the A-G courses necessary for admission to a University of California (UC) or a California State University (CSU) school.ⁱⁱ
- Many Linked Learning schools ensure students successfully complete the necessary A-G coursework for admission to a UC or CSU. In fact, 57 percent of graduates from California Partnership Academies (CPAs), which practice a form of Linked Learning, fulfilled the A-G courses required.ⁱⁱⁱ
- CPAs also posted higher graduation rates with 95 percent of students completing high school.^{iv}
- Linked Learning arms students with real-world experience and a strong academic foundation to go to college so that they can meet the demands of today's job market and enjoy a meaningful, high-wage career.
- A person with a bachelor's degree will earn, over his or her lifetime, nearly twice as much as a high school graduate.^v

Aligned to the Common Core State Standards

- Linked Learning principles are already aligned with the Common Core State Standards that will make students more college and career ready by focusing on critical thinking, analysis, and applying knowledge to solve real-world problems. The Common Core will be implemented in the 2014-15 school year, and students will be tested on these new standards with new advanced assessments.
- Students enrolled in Linked Learning pathways are likely to produce better test scores than students not learning under the Linked Learning approach.

ⁱ Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018. P v. <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/FullReport.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Profile of the California Partnership Academies 2009-2010, UC Berkeley. (2011). http://casn.berkeley.edu/downloads/CPA-report-execSum_2010-11.pdf

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^{iv} Profile of the California Partnership Academies 2009-2010, UC Berkeley. (2011). http://casn.berkeley.edu/downloads/CPA-report-execSum_2010-11.pdf

^v Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018. P 4. <http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/FullReport.pdf>