

Talking Points
Linked Learning Alliance
State Board Meeting July 8, 2015

- President Kirst, Superintendent Torlakson, Members of the board. My name is Sasha Horwitz on behalf of the Linked Learning Alliance.
- The Alliance represents the Linked Learning field which supports an educational approach that integrates academic and technical education along with work-based learning and student supports, to prepare and empower students to pursue a variety of college and career options after high school.
- We appreciate the recent revisions to the LCFF Evaluation Rubrics which take a more holistic approach to identifying indicators for College AND Career Readiness.
- California has pioneered the development of high school programs that effectively prepare students for both careers and college through the California Partnership Academies, NAF academies, and other programs modelled on the LL approach.

- Students who participate in integrated college and career course sequences in high school are ready to make informed decisions about their future once they graduate, and are better prepared for success in those choices.
- That's why the AND is so important. We want to underline that AND should be seen as integrating the two, and not simply pursuing both college and career success as if they are somehow independent of one another.
- We cannot go back to the model of the past where many students were arbitrarily put into either a college prep or vocational ed track. It is vital that our schools support students to succeed and not simply place them on alternate tracks, as this assumes that we know what students are capable of and denies them of agency in decisions that directly affect them.
- Early research has shown that students enrolled in programs that integrate academic, technical and work-based learning, outperform traditional students in terms of credit completion and progress towards postsecondary eligibility.

- Furthermore, these students report higher rates of engagement, motivation, and empowerment – which in light of our states dropout rate are critical to high school (and college) persistence and completion.
- As you move forward in developing the accountability system and evaluation rubrics, please keep in mind the importance of integrating college and career readiness, as well as the many ways we can move beyond standardized testing and a-g completion as the primary means of viewing student success.