

THE LINKED LEARNING ADVANTAGE



Linked Learning is a proven approach to education that combines rigorous academics, sequenced technical training, work-based learning and integrated student supports. By centering high school around industry themes, learning becomes relevant. Students graduate with the skills and confidence to succeed in college, career and life. To learn more, visit LinkedLearning.org.

FOUR CORE COMPONENTS

Linked Learning's power comes from the close integration of four core components:

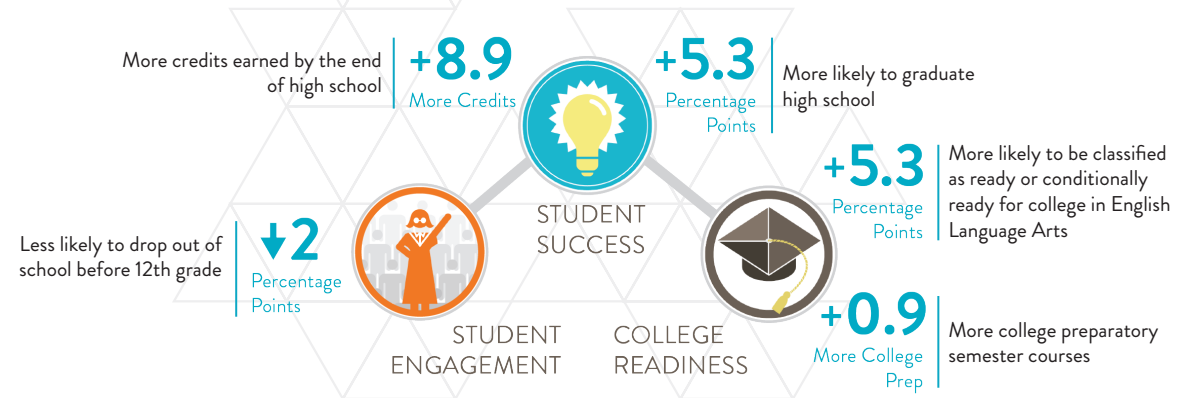
Rigorous academics that prepare students to succeed in college.

Career-technical education courses in sequence, emphasizing real-world applications of academic learning.

Work-based learning that provides exposure to real-world workplaces and teaches the professional skills needed to thrive in a career.

Integrated support services to address the individual needs of students, ensuring equity of access, opportunity and success.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Students in **certified Linked Learning pathways completed more college preparatory courses** compared with similar peers in traditional high school programs.

Certified pathways retained students who otherwise might have left high school prior to senior year and were originally unlikely to pursue the full college preparatory curriculum.

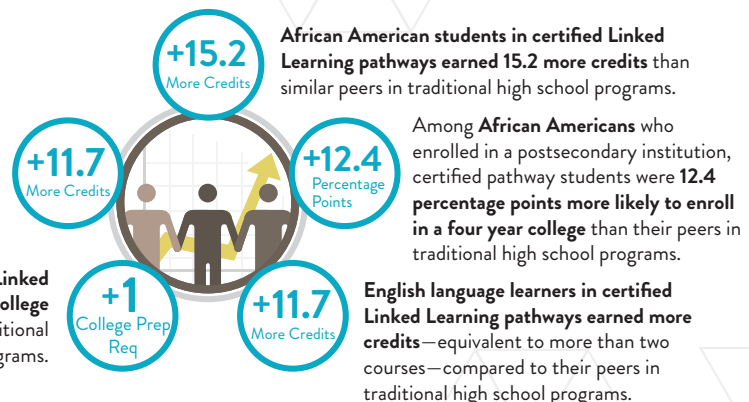
Students who entered certified pathways with low prior achievement were **2.0 percentage points less likely to drop out, 5.3 percentage points more likely to graduate, and accumulated 8.9 more credits and 0.9 more college preparatory requirements** than similar peers in traditional high school programs.

SEE SOURCE 1

IMPROVING EQUITY

On average, **Latino students in certified pathways were less likely to drop out and more likely to graduate, and accumulated more credits**—equivalent to more than two courses—compared to similar peers in traditional high school programs.

English language learners in certified Linked Learning pathways completed one more college prep requirement than similar peers in traditional high school programs.



SEE SOURCE 1

SOURCE 1: SRI INTERNATIONAL. (2016). TAKING STOCK OF THE CALIFORNIA LINKED LEARNING DISTRICT INITIATIVE. SEVENTH-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT.
SOURCE 2: SRI INTERNATIONAL. (2014). TAKING STOCK OF THE CALIFORNIA LINKED LEARNING DISTRICT INITIATIVE. FIFTH-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT.

THE LINKED LEARNING ADVANTAGE



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

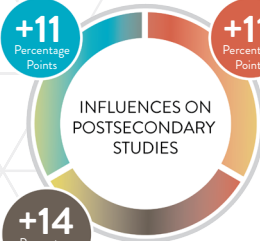
Gained knowledge of expectations for professional behaviors



Gained ability to create resume or job application

Linked Learning students reported that their pathway experiences helped them develop skills needed for success after high school, including 21st Century skills, productive dispositions and behaviors, and professionalism.

Took high school courses that sparked interest



Were encouraged by counselor or other adult in high school

Spent time working off site in an industry



Linked Learning students going to college rated high school influences as more important to their choice of postsecondary goals and plans than comparison students.



Sick days

Health insurance
Paid vacation

Linked Learning students who had jobs during the year, after high school graduation, were more likely than comparison students to have help from a working professional in finding a job and were more likely to have a job with good benefits.

SEE SOURCE 1

Linked Learning students reported more guidance from school staff regarding postsecondary goals compared to peers (percentage point difference)

+11 | How to choose a two- or four-year college

How to choose a career training or trade school **+9**

+11 | High school graduation requirements

What kind of training is necessary to prepare for a career **+12**

+12 | How to pay for college or training

What they want to do after high school **+12**

+13 | High school courses needed to get into college

SEE SOURCE 1

Linked Learning students were more likely than peers to report improved 21st Century skills

Communicate with adults outside the family

+11

Achieve a shared goal **+20**

Present to a group **+22**

Work with people **+21**

Get along with people from different backgrounds **+10**



+16

Speak in public

+17 | Develop the ability to use information to make good decisions

+16 | Conduct online searches to answer a question

+13 | Summarize information from multiple sources

+17 | Judge whether they can trust the result of an online search

SEE SOURCE 2

SOURCE 1: SRI INTERNATIONAL. (2016). TAKING STOCK OF THE CALIFORNIA LINKED LEARNING DISTRICT INITIATIVE. SEVENTH-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT.
SOURCE 2: SRI INTERNATIONAL. (2014). TAKING STOCK OF THE CALIFORNIA LINKED LEARNING DISTRICT INITIATIVE. FIFTH-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT.



LINKED LEARNING® ALLIANCE

Linked Learning

- Integrates rigorous academics that meet college-ready standards with sequenced, high-quality career-technical education, work-based learning, and supports to help students stay on track.
- Organizes learning around a broad industry sector theme, so that students get exposure to a wide array of career options, and learn what professional and postsecondary training is needed to be successful in a career in that industry.
- Prepares students to graduate from high school ready for college, and with skills needed to thrive in the workplace.

Four Core Components

Linked Learning's power comes from the close integration of four core components:

- **Rigorous academics** that prepare students to succeed in college.
- **Career-technical education** courses in sequence, emphasizing real-world applications of academic learning.
- **Work-based learning** that provides exposure to real-world workplaces and teaches the professional skills needed to thrive in a career.
- **Comprehensive support services** to address the individual needs of all students, ensuring equity of access, opportunity, and success.

Talking Points about Linked Learning Field Growth and Commitment to Quality

- Linked Learning delivers better outcomes for students when it is implemented with fidelity to the four core components.
- While the number of Linked Learning pathways across the country is rapidly expanding, an important challenge for the field is to ensure that this massive increase in scale is accompanied by a commitment to pathway quality.
- The Linked Learning Alliance Board of Directors adopted an action plan to guide the Linked Learning field through the year 2020. The ultimate goal of this plan is to ensure that more students, particularly underrepresented students, complete high school, earn a college degree and/or professional credential, and enter financially sustaining and personally relevant careers.

- To help accomplish this goal, Linked Learning Certification and Analytics systems were developed and launched for field-wide use in January 2017. These tools support and recognize Linked Learning pathway quality and continuous improvement.

Talking Points Based on Year 7 Evaluation of Linked Learning District Initiative

- The most recent seven-year evaluation of the Linked Learning District Initiative conducted by SRI International continues to provide evidence that *quality implementation* of Linked Learning matters. For example...

Linked Learning Impact on College and Career Readiness

- Linked Learning students in certified pathways completed more college preparatory courses compared with similar peers in traditional high school programs.
- Certified pathway students were more likely than comparison students to report that high school helped them develop key 21st century skills, such as communication, working with people in professional settings, collaboration, and informational literacy.
- Certified pathways retained students who otherwise might have left high school prior to senior year and were originally unlikely to pursue the full college preparatory curriculum. This demonstrates Linked Learning's ability to increase college readiness among at-risk youth.
- High school courses, encouragement from a counselor and time in a work setting influenced Linked Learning pathway students' choice of major, when enrolling in a postsecondary institution.
- The skills gained by Linked Learning students translated into better jobs than those of their peers, as indicated by benefits such as paid vacation, sick leave and health insurance.

Linked Learning Impact on Equity

- English learner students in certified pathways earned more credits—equivalent to more than two additional courses—and completed one more college prep requirement than similar peers in traditional high school programs.
- On average, African-American students in certified pathways earned more credits—roughly three courses worth—than African-American students in traditional high school programs. They also accumulated one more college prep requirement and were more likely to graduate than their peers.
- On average, Latino students in certified pathways were less likely to drop out and more likely to graduate than similar peers.

- Latino students in certified pathways also earned more credits and accumulated slightly more college preparatory requirements than their counterparts in traditional high schools.
- On average, female students in certified pathways were less likely to drop out, more likely to graduate and accumulated more credits and slightly more a–g requirements than female students in traditional high schools.