

Get ConnectEd...

ConnectEd's mission is to support the development of Linked Learning pathways by which California's young people can complete high school, enroll in postsecondary education, attain a formal credential, and embark on lasting success in the world of work, civic affairs, and family life. We are dedicated to advancing practice, policy, and research supporting Linked Learning.

Hundreds of schools throughout California are implementing Linked Learning, but the vast majority of students do not have access to this powerful—and proven—approach. And those that have already adopted Linked Learning are eager for more information and professional development. ConnectEd provides the support and resources they need, offering assistance at the school, district, and state level to expand access to and improve the quality of pathways.

Linked Learning Transforms High Schools

With almost a third of California's new ninth-graders dropping out before high school graduation and another third finishing but finding they are unprepared to succeed in college or careers, the state needs an approach like Linked Learning. It transforms students' high school experience by bringing together strong academics, demanding technical education, and real world experience to help students gain an advantage in high school, postsecondary education, and careers. With Linked Learning, students follow industry-themed pathways in a wide range of fields, such as engineering, arts and media, and biomedicine and health. This integrated approach helps students build a strong foundation for success in college and career—and life.

ConnectEd Services

As a hub for the Linked Learning field, ConnectEd develops tools, supports demonstration projects, provides technical assistance, leads collaboration, and promotes policies that expand pathways preparing young people for college and career success.

Tool Development

For schools to implement high-quality pathways, both teachers and site and district leadership need support. They must develop and implement curriculum that relates to the real world and develop

systems that address issues of choice and equity, transportation, cohort scheduling, professional development, recruitment and hiring, and other issues. ConnectEd creates pathway-specific curriculum that integrates academic and technical content, provides professional development, offers on-line tools such as ConnectEd Studios to help teachers and students share information, and develops a wide range of resources that will support those implementing pathways throughout the state.

Demonstration Projects and Technical Assistance

To identify promising practices for implementing Linked Learning, develop professional development modules, and help build learning communities, ConnectEd has led demonstration projects of Linked Learning schools and districts. ConnectEd launched the California Linked Learning District Initiative to help districts develop systems of pathways that would provide students with a choice of industry themes. After providing coaching, technical assistance, and tools to help ten districts develop comprehensive Implementation Plans, ConnectEd awarded implementation grants of approximately \$1.1 million each to nine districts and continues to help guide their efforts.

Collaboration in the Field

To help build a field of organizations to support sites and districts implementing Linked Learning, ConnectEd has convened partners in small groups, to develop tools such as quality criteria for implementation and integrated curriculum units, or in

larger groups such as the Linked Learning Alliance to discuss and address key issues in the field.

Policy Analysis and Advising

Schools need support from local and state policymakers to expand access to Linked Learning and to implement pathways that are of high quality. ConnectEd analyzes proposed policies, produces reports on issues related to Linked Learning, advises policymakers upon request, and convenes interested parties to help build a policy infrastructure to support the expansion of Linked Learning in California high schools.

Awareness Building

For more students to gain access to Linked Learning, we need to raise awareness about the approach so that more schools adopt it and more policymakers understand its importance. To that end, ConnectEd produces publications, video profiles, presentations, a website, and convenings. We also provide credible information on the results of the approach.

ConnectEd Studios

ConnectEd Studios is a rapidly expanding online platform, which offers students and teachers access to integrated curriculum units, multimedia resources, planning tools, and industry professionals who can help in designing authentic student projects and assess student work to meet industry standards. The platform also encourages discussion through online forums that help foster professional learning communities.



ConnectEd

The California Center for College and Career

Transforming today's education
for tomorrow's economy

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Access our tools, reports, and resources at:

www.ConnectEdCalifornia.org