

FAMILY GUIDE

Linked Learning



Introduction

Strategic Plan Priority:

1D: College and Career Readiness

Pillar 1: Academic Excellence

High-Quality
Instruction

Enriching
Experiences

Eliminating
Opportunity Gaps

College and
Career Readiness

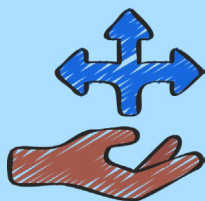
Linked Learning is an educational approach that combines:



Integrated program of study combining college-preparatory academics with career-technical education through a structured sequence of courses designed to meet both college entrance requirements and industry standards.



Continuum of work-based learning opportunities that provide authentic workplace experience through job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, and more in partnership with local employers.



Personalized student supports including academic counseling, college and career guidance, and targeted interventions that prepare each student for successful transitions beyond high school.

This guide was created to help families understand how Linked Learning works and how you can support your child's success at home.

Materials or Curriculum



Integrated Program of Study

Linked Learning pathways organize courses around a career theme such as health, engineering, arts, business, or technology, while still meeting all graduation and college-entrance requirements.



Work-Based Learning

A range of work-based learning experiences that connect students to real workplaces, including job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, and other opportunities developed with local employers.



Personalized Student Supports

Personalized supports for each student such as academic counseling, college and career guidance, and extra help when needed, to ensure students are prepared for success after high school.

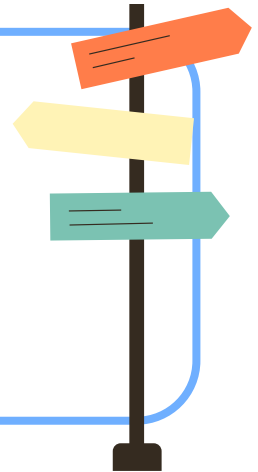
Key Milestones

Stage

1

Career Awareness / Exploration

At this stage, students are learning about different careers and industries. These experiences help students discover their interests and begin thinking about possible future paths. Experiences include: Career Day Participant, Guest Speaker, Industry Field Trip, Project Feedback.

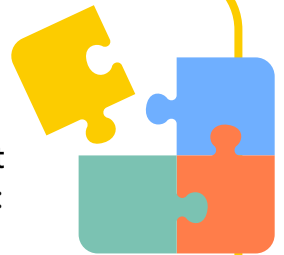


Stage

2

Career Preparation

At this stage, students begin building workplace skills and learning what it means to be part of a professional environment. Experiences include: Job Shadow, Mentorship, Volunteer at Pathway-Themed Organization.

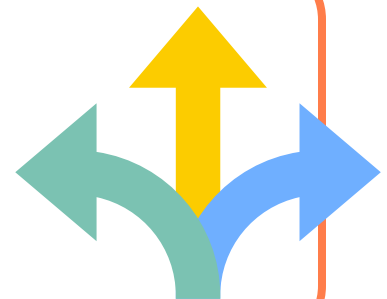


Stage

3

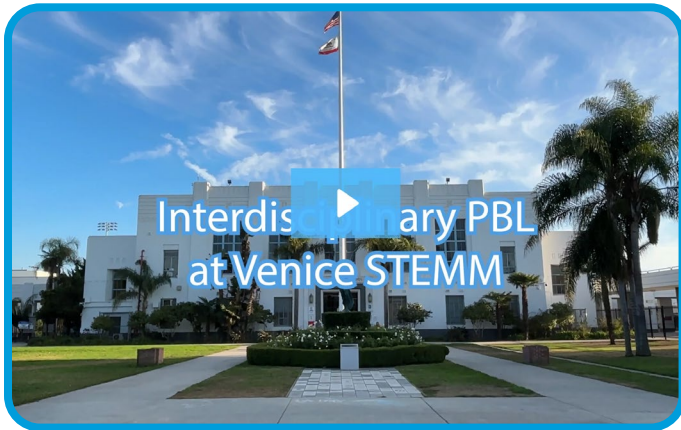
Career Training

At this stage, students gain hands-on experience in real workplaces and begin preparing for careers after high school. Experiences include: Internship, Registered Pre-Apprenticeship, Registered Apprenticeship.



Videos

What Linked Learning Looks Like in Action



Project-Based Learning at Venice STEMM



CTE-Linked Learning Showcase



Summer Bridge at Ortho



Summer Bridge at Bernstein CACT

Understanding my Child's Progress



How grades are determined

Teachers monitor student progress through coursework, grades, and assessments to ensure students are meeting academic expectations



Pathway Progress

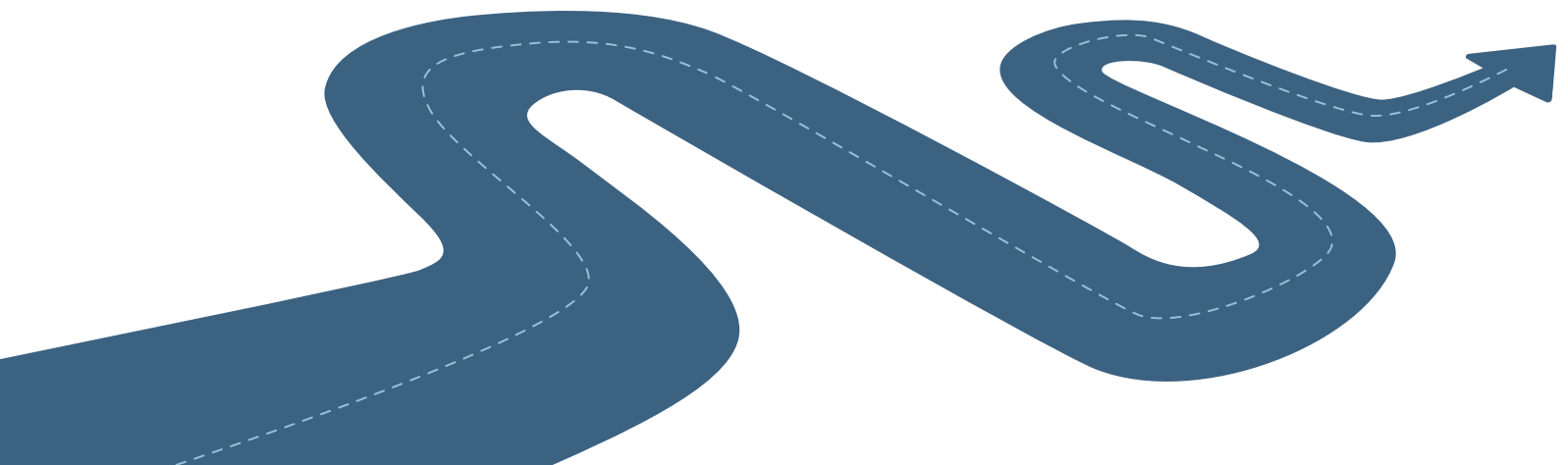
Students' progress is also tracked by their completion of pathway courses, projects, and career-aligned experiences.



Portfolio & Capstone Experiences

Many Linked Learning programs include portfolios or culminating projects where students demonstrate what they have learned over time.

Progress monitoring helps families and schools work together to celebrate growth, identify support needs, and plan next steps.



Tips & Activities

Explore Careers Together

Talk with your child about careers they are curious about. Ask what they enjoy and what problems they like solving.



Connect School to the Real World

When your child shares a project, ask how it connects to real jobs or industries.



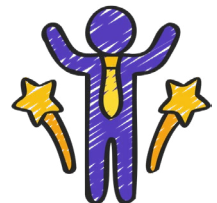
Encourage Skill Building

Support skills like time management, teamwork, communication, and perseverance. These matter in every career.



Celebrate Growth

Recognize effort and learning, not just final results. Growth mindset is key to success.



Questions to Ask Your Child



What skills are you learning in your CTE class?



How does this pathway connect to your future goals?



What projects or hands-on activities are you working on?



What support do you need to be successful?



What certifications, college credit, or career experiences can you earn through this pathway?



What skills are you most proud of developing so far?

Resources

Helpful Linked Learning Resources for Families

These resources offer families easy-to-use information about Linked Learning pathways, career exploration, and the supports that help students prepare for life after high school.

LAUSD CTE-Linked Learning



Linked Learning Alliance

LAUSD Career Guide & Family Resources

LAUSD CTE-Linked Learning YouTube Channel

LAUSD Linked Learning Pathways List

LAUSD Linked Learning Portfolio & Defense

Glossary

Linked Learning- An approach that connects academics, career-themed learning, and real-world experiences.

Work-Based Learning (WBL)- Learning experiences connected to real workplaces, such as internships, job shadows, and industry projects.

Career Technical Education (CTE)- Classes and programs that help students learn skills connected to real careers while also meeting high school graduation and college requirements.

Dual Enrollment- An opportunity for high school students to take college courses and earn college credit while still enrolled in high school.

Portfolio- A collection of student work that demonstrates learning and skills.

Graduate Profile- A description of the skills and qualities students are expected to develop by the time they graduate, such as communication and problem solving.

References

Books for Families

1. [Beyond Tracking: Multiple Pathways to College, Career, and Civic Participation](#)
Jeannie Oakes & Marisa Saunders (2008)
2. [Linked Learning: A Guide to Making High School Work](#)
Marisa Saunders et al. (2013)
3. [Linked Learning 101: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
All4Ed
4. [Helping Young People Ages 14-24 Shift From HS to College, Work & Beyond](#)
By Deborah Delisle & Anne Stanton