Everyone should take time to decide their future, but too often, students are unaware of all the options and opportunities available to them. Linked Learning opens doors to more opportunities for your child after high school. By gaining real-world experience and skills in California’s top industries, Linked Learning students are highly employable and ready to succeed in their chosen career path, whether they go straight into the workplace or go to college first.

Linked Learning is a way for students to meet the Common Core State Standards. The framework for the Common Core State Standards is directly aligned with Linked Learning—a focus on critical thinking, analysis and applying knowledge to solve real-world problems.

Linked Learning is helping to create an engaged and productive future workforce for California and is bringing employers into the classroom to ensure that students learn the skills they need to succeed.

Each career-oriented pathway is centered on one of California’s 15 largest industries, such as engineering, health care, performing arts, energy and law, ensuring that students graduate with skills applicable to actual jobs.

Linked Learning inspires students to stay in school, achieve more and graduate ready for college and career. And, it helps students see the connection between education and life, answering the question, “Why do I need to learn this?”

### Why Linked Learning matters to students

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Linked Learning gives you the opportunity to learn what you love, connecting your coursework with your interests and aspirations.</th>
<th>Your Linked Learning education will help you decide what you want to do after high school, prepare you for the challenges of college and career and make sure that you have the skills and knowledge to seize opportunities that come your way.</th>
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<td>Your pathway is part of the larger Linked Learning movement across the state. This movement is working to create a more engaging and relevant academic experience for all California students.</td>
<td>Your voice matters. You can help expand Linked Learning opportunities to more students statewide by sharing your experience with policymakers, school officials, parents and other students.</td>
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What is Linked Learning?
Linked Learning is a proven approach to education that combines college-focused academics, 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.

Why Linked Learning?
Linked Learning is a proven approach to education that combines college-focused academics, work-based learning and integrated student supports. By centering high school around industry themes, it makes learning relevant. Research shows that compared with their peers, students in certified Linked Learning pathways earn more credits in the first three years of high school, report greater confidence in their life and career skills and say they are experiencing more rigorous, integrated and relevant instruction.

One reason is that Linked Learning answers the question “Why do I need to learn this?” and inspires students to work harder, dream bigger and learn more by exposing them to previously unimagined career opportunities. Students graduate with the skills and confidence to succeed in college, career and life.

Four Core Components
Linked Learning encompasses four core components which are woven together in industry-themed pathways:

Rigorous academics
Core subjects that prepare all students for college, including the a-g coursework required by California’s public universities and aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Career-based learning in the classroom
Professional skills and industry-related knowledge woven into lessons and projects to give students context for what they’re learning.

Work-based learning in professional settings
A range of real-world experiences, from mentoring and job shadowing to internships, that expose students to possible career paths.

Integrated student supports
Dedicated support services tailored to the needs of students, such as counseling and supplemental instruction, that help ensure students are successful in school and life.