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.

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.

African American students in certified Linked Learning pathways earned 15.2 more credits than similar peers in traditional high school programs.

Among African Americans who enrolled in a postsecondary institution, certified pathway students were 12.4 percentage points more likely to enroll in a four year college than their peers in traditional high school programs.

English language learners in certified Linked Learning pathways earned more credits—equivalent to more than two courses—compared to their peers in traditional high school programs.
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.

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

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.

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

- How to choose a career training or trade school: +9
- High school graduation requirements: +11
- How to pay for college or training: +12
- High school courses needed to get into college: +13

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

- Communicate with adults outside the family: +11
- Develop the ability to use information to make good decisions: +17
- Conduct online searches to answer a question: +16
- Summarize information from multiple sources: +13
- Judge whether they can trust the result of an online search: +17

Gained knowledge of expectations for professional behaviors:

- Gained knowledge of expectations for professional behaviors: +20
- Gained ability to create resume or job application: +22

More likely than peers to report developing professionalism

- More likely than peers to report developing professionalism: +20

Influences on postsecondary studies

- Spent time working off site in an industry: +14
- Health insurance: +11
- Paid vacation: +7

Job quality

- Sick days: +14

College & career readiness

- Took high school courses that sparked interest: +11
- Were encouraged by counselor or other adult in high school: +11
- Percentage points


See Source 1

See Source 1

See Source 2