

The California Collaborative on District Reform

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Dear Collaborative Members and Guests,

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Long Beach on November 7–8 for the seventeenth convening of the California Collaborative on District Reform, *College and Career Readiness for All: Linked Learning in Long Beach*.

The topic for this meeting extends our recent deliberations on ensuring postsecondary success by focusing on preparation for both college *and* career. Specifically, we will explore the implementation of Linked Learning, an approach that uses strong academics combined with career and technical education in themed pathways and real-world experiences. Throughout the two days, we will use the experience of Long Beach Unified to understand the rationale and nature of Linked Learning and to explore systemic strategies and supports for bringing this approach to scale. We will also incorporate frameworks and background from ConnectEd's work on Linked Learning to frame the dialogue. Our goal is to identify key issues in design and implementation that warrant further consideration as districts begin or deepen their work in this arena. We thank Chris Steinhauser and his team from Long Beach Unified as well as Brad Stam from ConnectEd for co-planning and hosting this meeting, and The James Irvine Foundation for providing generous support to make the meeting possible.

Agenda Overview

The agenda is located behind the first tab in this binder. We will convene Monday morning at Millikan High School, where we will have an opportunity to observe classes and to talk with students, teachers, and school administrators about the transition to and implementation of a school-wide Linked Learning approach.

Suggested readings for this session are located behind four tabs in this binder:

- *College and Career Readiness*: This tab contains frameworks and research to ground the conversation in the skills and knowledge students need for both college and career.
- *Why Linked Learning?* This tab outlines arguments for programs like Linked Learning as well as descriptions of what these programs look like in California's schools and districts. ****Please review the Linked Learning pathway certification criteria in this tab, as we will be using this criteria to frame our classroom visits.****
- *Linked Learning Research*: This tab shares literature reviews and current research on the effects and implementation of Linked Learning and similar programs.
- *Linked Learning in Long Beach Unified*: This tab provides documents related to Long Beach's approach and implementation of Linked Learning.

As usual, we have included an annotated reading list behind each tab, including both priority readings for the meeting (indicated with a double asterisk **) and additional articles for your reference.

The California Collaborative on District Reform (www.cacollaborative.org) joins researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and funders in ongoing, evidence-based dialogue and collaborative activity to improve instruction and student learning for all students in California's urban school systems.

Monday afternoon, we will move our attention from the school to the district level in order to consider the systemic supports, strategies, and challenges that are necessary to carry out a Linked Learning approach at scale. Two tabs contain the readings for this discussion:

- *Systemic Perspectives on Linked Learning*: This tab contains ConnectEd’s framework for a systems approach to Linked Learning as well as articles that discuss key aspects of bringing Linked Learning to scale in a district, such as teacher preparation and leadership development.
- *Equity and Linked Learning*: This tab includes articles that review issues of equity and access that the authors argue districts should consider when implementing Linked Learning—including how to address the needs of English learners.

After returning to the hotel Monday afternoon, we will walk (or take the hotel shuttle if you prefer) to Parkers’ Lighthouse restaurant, where participants will have opportunities for networking and collective relaxation over cocktails and dinner.

Tuesday morning we will reconvene at Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School, where we will talk with members of the school community and with leaders from business and higher education about the external partnerships that are critical to the successful implementation of Linked Learning. Finally, we will consider what state and federal policy supports can enable a systemic approach to Linked Learning. Readings on the issues of partnerships for this session are located behind the last tab in the binder:

- *External Partnerships*: This tab includes a piece that focuses on understanding how districts engage in partnerships, as well as articles on the role of parents, students, and the business community in Linked Learning.

Information on relevant federal and state policy activity is under the “Systemic Perspectives” tab.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a CD in the front sleeve of the binder that contains all of the meeting materials, as well as supplemental reference articles only included on the CD. We have also posted a full list of the literature and resources in this binder on our website:

www.cacollaborative.org.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting logistics, please don’t hesitate to contact Suzanne Claussen at 650.843.8192 or sclaussen@air.org. I look forward to seeing you all on November 7!

Sincerely,



Jennifer O’Day, Chair
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