

ED Abstract Narrative

Project Title: Linked Learning San Bernardino: Accelerating College and Career Readiness in Low Performing Schools

Type of Grant: Development

Absolute Priority and Subpart:

Absolute Priority 2 – Improving low-performing schools
Subpart (b) – Non-cognitive Student Outcomes.

Project Description: Through the implementation of Linked Learning pathways, this project will improve students' cognitive and non-cognitive skills crucial for success in *both* college and career, not one or the other. Twelve high quality pathways will be developed in 4 low-performing high schools in San Bernardino, CA, and a quasi-experimental evaluation will examine cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes for participating students in grades 9 through 12. Pathways will be implemented with fidelity to the Linked Learning approach, which requires all 4 of the following essential strategies: 1) rigorous college-preparatory academics emphasizing real-world applications to prepare students for success in the range of postsecondary options; 2) career-based learning that delivers technical knowledge and skills, emphasizing practical application of academic learning; 3) work-based learning via job shadows, apprenticeships, internships, and school-based enterprise—all with opportunities for interaction with working adults around authentic problems and projects; and 4) personalized supports, such as counseling and supplemental instruction, to help students master the skills for college and career success.

Objectives and Outcomes: In 4 low-performing high schools, create a system of at least 12 Linked Learning pathways, which in 4 years achieve a quality level warranting Linked Learning Certification and produce marked gains in students' cognitive and non-cognitive outcomes.

Students Served: 7,000 over 4 years.

Special Project Features: While the project evaluation will focus on student outcomes at the school level, the project will also pay particular attention to developing the district policies and procedures needed to sustain school improvement over time.

Partners:

ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career
San Bernardino City Unified School District
San Bernardino County Office of Education
Alliance for a Better Community
Institute for Evidence-Based Change
SRI International