

Funding Linked Learning

Programs throughout California that follow the Linked Learning approach have a variety of funding sources including state and federal dollars, as well as contributions from businesses and private foundations, and in-kind donations from community partners. The most substantial source of funding for Linked Learning and related approaches comes from the state in the form of California Partnership Academy (CPA) grants, which provide approximately \$80,000 per pathway.¹

During the 2010-11 school year, state funding supported more than 500 CPAs throughout California in approximately 300 schools and 35 counties, serving nearly 70,000 students.² Unfortunately, funding for nearly 200 of these academies is scheduled to sunset in June 2012, when Senate Bill 70 ("Vocational Education," Scott, 2005) expires.³ As a result, approximately 21,000 students would lose access to the very programs that are keeping them engaged in school and teaching the kind of career-readiness skills they will need to succeed in the workforce.⁴



Recognizing the effectiveness of such programs, the James Irvine Foundation has funded 11 California school districts to expand Linked Learning in their high schools, with the goal of having each district develop a system of pathways and to support districts in planning and implementing at least six to eight high-quality pathways in a variety of industry sectors.⁵ Those districts include: Antioch, Long Beach, Los Angeles District 4, Montebello, Oakland, Pasadena, Porterville, Sacramento City, San Diego, Stockton and West Contra Costa.

Another source of funding, being eliminated in July 2011, is the federal Small Learning Communities (SLC) grant, which provided \$8.9 million to six California school districts: Antioch, Baldwin Park, Long Beach, Oakland, Red Bluff Joint Union and Woodland.

1 Personal communication with Jeanice Warden, California Department of Education on May 16, 2011. Data from document titled "California Partnership Academy Data 2011."

2 California Department of Education. *California Partnership Academies Directory*. Retrieved May 16, 2011 from <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/cpagen.asp>. Personal communication with Keith Edmonds, California Department of Education, on May 19, 2011 and May 20, 2011.

3 Personal communication with Jeanice Warden, California Department of Education on May 16, 2011 and May 18, 2011. Data from document titled "California Partnership Academy Data 2011" and spreadsheet titled "SB 70."

4 Personal communication with Keith Edmonds, California Department of Education, on May 20, 2011.

5 ConnectEd. *California Linked Learning District Initiative*. Retrieved May 16, 2011 from <http://www.connectedcalifornia.org/services/initiative.php>