

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO  
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

**SUBJECT:** Community Partnerships to Enhance College Preparation and Career Readiness by Maximizing Linked Learning Resources

**DATE NOTICED:** 03-19-13

**PRESENTED FOR ACTION:** 05-14-13, noon

**PRESENTED BY:** Ms. Martinez, Ms. García,  
Mr. Zimmer

**MOVED/SECONDED BY:** Ms. Martinez /  
Mr. Zimmer

**MOTION:**

**RESOLUTION:** x

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is fully committed to closing the achievement gap, ensuring that all students receive a meaningful, robust and rigorous education and that all students have access to resources they need to graduate high school college-prepared and career ready;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District adopted the Multiple Pathways (now known and hereafter referred to as Linked Learning) Resolution on October 28, 2008;

Whereas, The implementation of the Linked Learning Resolution leverages strategies to also expand project-based learning and directly link this method of engagement in the classroom with work-based learning within thematic small schools and small learning communities;

Whereas, On August 30, 2011, the Board adopted the Work-Based Learning Resolution so that students remain connected to academic expectations while working side by side with adult professionals who help instill professional behavior, real world expectations, a strong work ethic, an enthusiasm for lifelong learning and a desire to achieve;

Whereas, Hundreds of District schools strategically blend components of rigorous academics with career technical education to empower committed teams of teachers to collaborate with active business, post-secondary and community partnerships around a career focus;

Whereas, There are currently seventy-four schools in the District that are members of the California Partnership Academy, twelve that are approved members of the National Academy Foundation network, two schools that are certified Linked Learning pathways and nine other schools that are going through the Linked Learning certification process;

Whereas, Research demonstrates "that integrating work-based learning into a comprehensive educational program can address students' diverse learning styles thereby enabling them to learn and master skills and competencies through problem-solving; add relevance to academic curriculum by linking classroom learning to real world applications; expose students to career options that can motivate and inform their

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decision-making; and promote psychological and social development via adult interaction;" (NRC, 2004, Benard, 2004<sup>1</sup>);

Whereas, Studies confirm that Linked Learning strategies that incorporate both rigorous academic and career technical education, which include meaningful coursework, student participation in adult work settings, career models, postsecondary options and compensated work-based opportunities, can be especially relevant to immigrant and English Learner students;

Whereas, In President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address, he announced "a new challenge to redesign America's high schools so they better equip graduates for the demands of a high-tech economy" and stated that "we'll reward schools that develop new partnerships with colleges and employers and create classes that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) -- the skills today's employers are looking for to fill the jobs that are there now and will be there in the future."

Whereas, Work Based Learning opportunities include an array of programs including mentoring, school enterprises, virtual apprenticeships, job shadowing, intensive internships, work experience and community classrooms that are an essential component of any comprehensive educational program of study, bringing relevance to academic programs and providing innovative skills that, not only prepare students for 21st Century jobs in a global economy, but also nurture a "love of learning;"

Whereas, As California is ranked near the very bottom of all states in per pupil funding and the District has endured over five years of unconscionable cuts to personnel and programs critical for student achievement, it behooves us to develop innovative policies to generate partnerships with the business community and other external partners to maximize resources for effective teaching and learning;

Whereas, In the District, twenty Linked Learning pathways and a total of seventy-four Career Technical Academies already exist and are striving to create professional partnerships for student work-based learning experiences, but state funding cuts have significantly reduced support services at school sites so that there is little or no staff support to create and cultivate professional relationships with each industry sector; and

Whereas, The District is currently purchasing goods and services from over 9,000 vendors who do not offer any work based learning opportunities for students in Linked Learning programs; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That to encourage vendor participation in work based learning strategies, the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby directs the Superintendent to require all District administrators to incorporate into every contract, procured through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process within the Procurement Services Division, a provision high-quality work-based learning partnership, including but not limited to, internships, job shadow days, guest speaking, professional

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<sup>1</sup> National Research Council (NRC)I. (2004). *Engaging Schools: Fostering High School Students' Motivation to Learn*. Committee on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Benard,B. (2004). *Resiliency: What We Have Learned*. San Francisco, CA: WestEd

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development for teaching and support staff, or mentoring with a District Linked Learning pathway and/or program;

Resolved further, That all work-based learning practices implemented per this resolution will be aligned with the expectation to ensure maximum educational benefit to students per the adoption of the Work Based Learning Resolution in addition to the WBL Guidebook and other relevant District and personnel policies;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent shall establish an online web page that lists the names of all participating vendors/businesses/contractors committed to offering work-based learning opportunities to students by theme;

Resolved further, That the aforementioned web page and its affiliated work-based learning opportunities be overseen by the District's Broad Base Coalition with day-to-day management to be housed in the District's Linked Learning Department and additional staff support provided by the District's Work Experience Education Division;

Resolved further, That all work-based learning opportunities offered via the aforementioned web page be offered first to students that are a) eligible for free or reduced lunch, b) English Learners, c) homeless, wards of the state, or in foster care, and/or d) enrolled in career themed small learning communities affiliated with the District's Linked Learning Initiative, the National Academy Foundation and/or the California Partnership Academies;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent shall establish a committee to develop the principles and guidelines for the development, implementation, evaluation, and accountability of the District's vendor originated work-based learning opportunities to ensure that issues of equity, alignment to academic learning objectives and 21<sup>st</sup> century skill development, business and pathway compatibility and sustainability are meaningfully addressed;

Resolved further, The evaluation guidelines to be developed by the committee shall address internships, student enterprises and other activities as appropriate, including employer assessment of student attainment of foundational and applied workplace skills that shall also be aligned to statewide Career Technical Education (CTE) model curriculum standards and academic instruction. The committee shall further develop employer-oriented messaging which highlights the benefits to vendors and other employers of providing work-based learning opportunities to students. The committee will be comprised, at a minimum, of members representing:

- Community
- Parents
- Labor
- Teachers
- Chambers/Business
- Students
- WBL Intermediaries (such as LA Small Schools Center, ConnectEd, the National Academy Foundation, etc.);

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Resolved further, That the aforementioned committee will emphasize the following in the development of vendor standards and minimum contractual obligations:

- Preference for compensated work-based learning opportunities, as feasible, over those which are not compensated;
- Preference for the provision of sequenced work-based learning opportunities;
- Group placement, as appropriate;
- Provision which is sensitive to the transportation challenges experienced by many students including, but not limited to:
  - Transportation assistance;
  - Virtual apprenticeships;
  - School-based enterprises; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent shall report back to the Board on the progress of this initiative within 60 days and continue to report back annually thereafter.

**AYES**                      **NOES**                      **ABSTAIN**                      **ABSENT**

<b>Ms. Galatzan</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mr. Kayser</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. LaMotte</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. Martinez</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Dr. Vladovic</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mr. Zimmer</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Ms. Garcia</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>			

**ACTION: ADOPTED**