



**ConnectEd**  
The California Center for College and Career

Transforming today's education  
for tomorrow's economy

November 17, 2009

Dear Coalition Members:

Thank you for joining us today at the third convening of the California Coalition for Multiple Pathways. The Coalition is thriving! Since our last convening in January 2009, more than 35 new organizations have joined the coalition representing local, statewide, and national interests. Now more than 140 coalition members are working to develop or sustain pathways either through building awareness, policy, or direct pathway development. In addition, working groups have met more than a dozen times to drill down deeply on policy issues, develop strategies for building awareness, and refine quality assessment tools for pathways. Today, building on this work, we have four primary objectives.

First, the Coalition will take bold steps in advancing pathway development. Specifically, the Coalition will engage in a discussion with the Irvine Foundation around “naming the field.” We have a unique opportunity to rebrand the work that we do in order to best communicate 1) how connecting challenging academics to demanding technical education can re-engage young people in school; 2) why these linkages hold such promise for raising student achievement and high school graduation rates, leading to lasting success in further education and career, and 3) how our work here in California can help strengthen national conversations about education policy and high school improvement.

Second, the Coalition will offer recommendations to the California Department of Education on the Multiple Pathways Feasibility Report. AB 2648 required the Department to produce the report to determine how to increase students’ access to pathways across the state. The feasibility report will serve as a policy blueprint for increasing students’ access to high quality pathways over the next several years. The Coalition can help ensure that its members’ experience and insights are reflected in the final report to be released in January 2010.

Third, as the Coalition continues to expand and mature, we need to adopt a governance and staffing structure that will best advance the mission of the Coalition and reflect the commitment of its diverse members. Hence, we will consider a proposal that would allow the Coalition to assume responsibility for independent governance and management, with ConnectEd transitioning from a managing partner of the Coalition to an active member.

Fourth, we will examine strategies for continuing to expand student access to high quality pathways, updating the Coalition on the California Multiple Pathways District Initiative launched in July 2009, evaluation activities, and proposals for pathway certification criteria and procedures.

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Thank you again for your support in advancing this much needed transformation in California's high schools and for your commitment to preparing our young people for college *and* career, both objectives and not just one or the other.

With warmest regards,



Gary Hoachlander