

Overview of the Linked Learning Lens for the SB2042 Single Subject Credential Program

In 2008 the School of Teacher Education at San Diego State University embarked on a project, in collaboration with ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career and three other California State University (CSU) campuses (CSU Fresno, CSU Sacramento, and CSU San Bernardino), as well as various Linked Learning sites, to prepare California teachers with the skills and proficiencies necessary to ensure that their students will be prepared for the full range of postsecondary options and life. California State University Long Beach and the University of California, Los Angeles joined the network in 2010, bringing the number of universities in the network to six.

We know that too many students are not successful in school, especially those living in high-poverty urban areas. A high school improvement approach, known as Linked Learning, is showing strong evidence of improving outcomes for students and narrowing the achievement gap. However, prior to these universities' efforts, California teacher preparation programs had not addressed the identified need of preparing new teachers with the unique skills and proficiencies needed to teach at sites using the Linked Learning approach. Teachers need skills such as using inter- and intra-disciplinary collaboration in curriculum design and delivery, developing lessons using problem- and project-based learning, creating industry and postsecondary education partnerships, and developing learning experiences that integrate career-technical standards, academic standards, and work-based learning experiences. The teacher preparation programs at these universities address that need.

We are **not** establishing a Linked Learning credential program. Rather, we are bringing a *Linked Learning lens* to the already-established, state-approved Single Subject Credential Programs. Building on the foundation of teacher preparation as described in California's SB 2042 Single Subject Credential Program Standards, the *Linked Learning lens* brings a new focus to California's Standards for Teacher Preparation by helping new teachers understand, appreciate, and apply these additional skills and proficiencies to those standards.

With funding from the James Irvine Foundation, SDSU and its university partners, working with ConnectEd, began in summer 2008 to develop 1) replicable models for Single Subject Credential Programs that will prepare new teachers to fully participate as professional educators in Linked Learning programs and schools, and 2) a network of teacher preparation institutions throughout the state that are implementing one of these models.

A key element of the Linked Learning lens is that student teaching experiences occur in collaboration with and at Linked Learning sites so that credential candidates not only learn about the Linked Learning approach in their university classes, but they also experience it as student teachers.

At SDSU, we provide the following description in our Catalogue to recruit students to our program:

Are you interested in working in select school settings where teamwork and real-world/workforce applications for learning in your content area are integral to the educational experience? Are you interested in student teaching in schools where teacher leadership is valued and modeled? Are you interested in working with teachers who value teamwork and collaboration and bring high school reform alive through interdisciplinary instruction and problem- and project-based learning? This cohort will focus on innovative practices and

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schools in which rigorous academic work and career technical education come together to prepare all students for success in both college and career. Credential candidates will be prepared to teach in both traditional and Linked Learning schools and programs.

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