



## "Linked Learning" Becomes Law!

### [Linking academics and vocational education](#)

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Despite our struggle to pay for public schools, new laws offer exciting new options for thousands of teenagers who might otherwise drop out.

Hoping to reverse the state's stubbornly high dropout rate, California is retooling vocational education for a 21st century economy.

Pilot programs known as "[linked learning](#)" tie high school courses to job training with local employers.

Science classes are linked with healthcare and clean energy jobs; computer technology - with auto mechanics, game design, and so on.

Some educators complain by [crediting](#) these career technical classes for graduation, we'll dumb down the curriculum.

But NBC Bay Area supports linked learning to keep more students in school and in training with high school programs rigorous and relevant enough so they "link" to the next sequence of [classes in college](#) or to a successful career.