

Project Overview

California Pathways Proof Points

All students should be able to say, “I know who I am, I know where I’m going, and I know who can help me get there.” That is the vision of the Commission on Purposeful Pathways, whose report, [A Launchpad for Life](#), lays out the evidence-based, high impact practices that create pathways for economic mobility and foster development of social capital and a sense of purpose and belonging for young people. Those practices are:

- High quality advising
- Accelerated coursework
- Career-connected learning

While each of these practices is effective, it’s their integration in a pathway that promises the most powerful impact.



National Movement

The national movement for Purposeful Pathways is developing state and regional “proof point” initiatives that demonstrate how high school and college partnerships can successfully transform student experiences and outcomes. In projects funded by the Gates Foundation, regional intermediaries in California, Texas and Washington are supporting high school and college partnerships that are already implementing and integrating high quality advising and accelerated coursework in pathways to learn what it takes to bring them to scale. Key sites representing diverse geographical settings in seven other states are learning from innovative delivery models that have integrated all three practices in pathways.

California Regions

The California Pathways Proof Points initiative includes four regions: San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, the Inland Empire and San Diego. The initiative is focused on helping young people successfully transition from high school to postsecondary education and fulfilling careers through integrated pathways—with embedded dual enrollment, counseling/advising, and career connected learning—that foster student belonging and development of social capital. Career Ladders Project (CLP) serves as the statewide lead intermediary for California, connecting regional partnerships to one another and to state-level priorities. Through communities of practice, technical assistance, capacity building, and continuous learning, CLP supports regional implementation of high-quality pathways, fosters collaboration across K–12, higher education, and workforce partners, and informs state policy.



The effort in each region is led by an intermediary and includes two or three colleges and multiple high schools along with other school and college leaders, intermediaries, workforce organizations and community partners. The colleges and high schools were chosen based on their already strong implementation of the three high impact practices.

Within each region, the site-level college and high school partners are working together in communities of practice—with the support of the regional intermediary—to learn what it takes to strengthen, sustain and expand purposeful pathways. At the state level, regional intermediaries

are engaged in a statewide community of practice led by CLP to share learnings and build capacity to support sites. Through their collective efforts, the regions will generate proof points for integrated pathways that lead to improved and equitable student outcomes. These proof points will help make the case for policy reforms and sustained state funding.

Measurement

Along with similar projects in Washington and Texas, the California regions are using surveys and data collection to learn and measure progress. Each high school/college partnership site will set targets and collect data over the life of the project.

High Impact Practice	Measurements
High Quality Advising	• FAFSA/CADAA applications • College applications • Immediate college enrollment
Accelerated Coursework	• College credit earned through dual enrollment, AP or IB (12 units or more) • College credit applied to postsecondary course of study
Career-connected Learning	<i>Sites are not formally measuring but learning about the practice.</i>