For the Public Record

September 15, 2017

To: California Air Resources Board

Re: Comments on the 2017 Draft Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments

* The Linked Learning Alliance is a statewide coalition of education, industry, and community organizations dedicated to improving California’s high schools and preparing students for success in college, career, and life.
* Many districts in the state of California are developing college and career pathway programs that adhere to the principles of Linked Learning, an approach that integrates rigorous academics, sequenced technical training, work-based learning, and student support services.
* The Alliance recognizes the opportunity provided by the CCI funding guidelines to improve job local, regional, and statewide job training efforts to develop a talented and thriving workforce.
* The state of California has recently invested $1.4 billion into meaningful pipelines from high school to industry through the California Career Pathways Trust and Career Technical Education Incentive Grant. The number of pathways in the Energy and Utilities sector grew to 39 statewide.
* There are multiple ways that these guidelines can continue the momentum created by this funding, which not only supported educational program development, but the formation and establishment of sustainable partnership between school districts, community colleges, 4-year universities, and employers.
* The Alliance hopes that these guidelines will inspire a commitment by all industries to incorporate environmentally friendly and sustainable practices into their workplaces, and that understanding and adoption of such practices will be considered 21st century skills.
* If school districts in the CA Climate Investment designated areas were able to apply for funds to transform their school grounds and buildings to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy, use renewable energy, etc., it would provide an additional opportunity for students to learn about the demands and standards of occupations within the environmental sector, and also provide relevance to their science education.
* Lastly, the Alliance encourages the Air Resources Board, along with other departments under CalEPA, to contact the Linked Learning Alliance as a resource and thought partner to conceptualize further opportunities for alignment between these guidelines and Linked Learning pathways, and to inform future environmental career pathway efforts.
* The Alliance appreciates considerations for these comments and encourages follow-up from interested parties to be sent to [policy@linkedlearning.org](mailto:policy@linkedlearning.org)