About Beyond High School

Far too many schools in California and across the nation fail to prepare their students for success in college and career. With national graduation rates hovering around 84 percent, and only 40% percent of students who graduate prepared for postsecondary success, the traditional school model is not addressing the needs of our future workforce.

Over the past two years, Pivot Learning’s Beyond High School Initiative has been working with a group of six secondary schools in California and Massachusetts to redesign them, through a community-based user-centered design process, to ensure that all students graduate prepared to succeed in college and career. Using the research-based principles of Linked Learning—rigorous academics integrated with (1) college-ready standards, (2) sequenced career-technical education, (3) work-based learning, and (4) personalized student supports for stronger academic and social-emotional outcomes—Beyond High School is changing the trajectory for nearly 6,000 students so far. The Beyond High School process engages a “design team” to uncover solutions to their strategic improvement challenges.

Studies show that this approach leads to better student outcomes—graduation rates, student achievement in English language arts (ELA) and math, social-emotional skills, and college and career readiness—over the traditional secondary school model.

“Beyond High School is changing the trajectory for nearly 6,000 students so far.”

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1 National high school graduation rate. NCES, 2015-16
2 College students who take remedial courses in 4-year institutions. 2004-05 longitudinal study. NCES 2016 report
3 This process was adapted from IDEO, Stanford d.school, and the Henry Ford Learning Institute.
4 GfI International, 2015
These schools have been reimagining their classes, master schedule, and student interactions. All aspects of the schools have been evaluated in the design process, including:

- Instruction and assessment,
- teacher and student collaboration on thematic, interdisciplinary projects,
- professional development, and
- school culture.

The pilot Beyond High School sites are implementing their redesign prototypes. New partner schools will join the process to make transformational changes to improve their students’ learning. With a goal of more personalized, authentic learning experiences for greater student success beyond high school, the road that lies ahead is rife with opportunities.

**How Beyond High School Works**

First, Beyond High School sites create multi-disciplinary design teams. The design teams are comprised of education leaders, teachers, students, families, community members, industry partners, and community colleges. They work together to define their school vision and go through the Change Design steps of Discover, Interpret, Ideate, Prototype, Feedback, and Refine.

Beyond High School has shifted adult culture in all the sites, as indicated by increased teacher satisfaction levels and improved collaboration across subject areas and grade levels, closely followed by increased student attendance and engagement. Beyond High School’s comprehensive approach has helped school teams transform their practices for improved student learning, while making the cultural and adaptive shifts that are necessary to sustain lasting change.
Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy

Two Oakland Aspire schools—Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy and Golden State College Preparatory Academy—had an opportunity to partner with the city of Oakland to implement Linked Learning pathways through Measure N. Lionel Wilson needed to create a plan that would focus their pathway development to ensure long-term success. When Pivot began working with them, the school had multiple pathways they were considering and beginning to implement.

With Pivot’s support, Lionel Wilson focused on the Linked Learning pillars and created a single pathway plan around engineering for social change. Building off of their “college for certain” motto, Pivot helped Lionel Wilson add a career focus that included technical coursework and work-based learning integrated into their college prep program. As a result of this work, Lionel Wilson was awarded full funding through Measure N to build out their pathway, and they are implementing it in the 2018-19 school year.

Lionel Wilson developed an energetic and engaged Advisory Board that attended student exhibitions, provided teacher externships, and identified ways to continue to support work-based learning opportunities throughout the next school year.

Pathways
Design for Social Change

Partnerships
- iMentor
- Peralta Community Colleges
- Abl
- Linked Learning Alliance

“Shifting to a college and career vision will enable a larger percentage of students to complete their graduation requirements and be successful after graduation. Additionally, they are linking Culturally Relevant Pedagogy work with their Linked Learning Pathway development work.”

-Design Team Member

Master schedule adjustments have facilitated a dedicated core design class for all 9th – 12th grade students and grade level collaboration time for teachers.

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Student Populations Served: School vs. District

**School Information**
Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy

- Enrollment: 467
- Free & Reduced-Price Lunch: 92.2%

- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian: 0.6%
- Black or African American: 3.7%
- Hispanic or Latino: 94%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.6%
- None Reported: 1%

**District Information**
Oakland Unified

- Enrollment: 50,231
- Free & Reduced-Price Lunch: 74.4%

- American Indian or Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian: 12.6%
- Black or African American: 24.3%
- Filipino: 0.9%
- Hispanic or Latino: 45.6%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.9%
- Two or more races: 3.7%
- White: 10.1%
- None Reported: 1.7%

Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy is a 6th-12th grade Aspire Public School charter serving 467 students in East Oakland, California. Lionel Wilson ensures that all students graduate with the courses required for admittance to Universities of California and California State Universities. Beyond the goal of college acceptance, Lionel Wilson also focuses on preparing students for success in college and career by challenging them to define their own path and to realize their full potential.

**About Pivot Learning**
Founded in 1995, Pivot Learning is a nonprofit organization of K-12 education experts who work directly with districts to address their biggest challenges, including raising student achievement and closing unconscionably large achievement gaps. Our mission is to partner with educators to design and implement solutions to their greatest challenges in achieving educational justice. We envision a future where our public schools provide our most underserved students with an outstanding education. In 2017, Pivot acquired the Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education (CORE), which expanded our reach and our capacity to support research-based intervention in literacy and math.