

San Bernardino Investment Playbook

Project Details: Purposeful Pathways

The Purposeful Pathways initiative will strengthen career pathways into industries of particular relevance to the San Bernardino economy and community, including education; social justice / nonprofit and philanthropy; and arts, entertainment, and media. After auditing current program offerings, the initiative will work to clarify and streamline relevant pathways, improve outreach to students and families, and expand student access to programming and wraparound supports.

Each pathway will be A-G compliant with direct connections to industry/academic certification and/or degree programs. They will offer dual enrollment as well as work-based learning opportunities to give students hands-on, real-world experience.

Special care will be taken to work with local communities in a supportive and culturally responsive manner. Outreach and engagement strategies to raise awareness of available pathways and opportunities will be tailored to the distinct needs, concerns, and priorities of each target audience. Mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations that have earned the trust of target audiences will help the initiative connect with communities that historically have been harder to reach.

RATIONALE

Advancing equitable economic growth and boosting upward socioeconomic mobility requires that area residents have access to clear, well-supported pathways into jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage and provide opportunities for advancement. Although the San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) has a wide range of career pathways available to area students, offerings vary by institution and can be difficult for students and their families to navigate. Too many students never learn of possibilities that align with their passions or are unable to access the pathways they prefer due to lack of transportation and other needed supports.

OBJECTIVES

- Establish well-supported and easily navigated pathways into quality jobs in the Inland Empire
- Increase the number and proportion of San Bernardino students on pathways into quality jobs (particularly within disadvantaged and disinvested communities)
- Ensure that area employers have access to the skilled workers they need to grow

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The Purposeful Pathways initiative will be led by Just SB partners: Arts Connection, BLU Educational Foundation, Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE), and Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC). Other relevant stakeholders include the San Bernardino City Unified School District, San Bernardino Community College District, CSUSB, the proposed Inland Port Career Resource Center, employers, wraparound service providers, and community organizations.

NEXT STEPS

Decisionmakers from Just SB will audit existing pathways and wraparound student supports, identify specific project elements, seek out subject matter experts, develop cost estimates, and devise a roadmap for securing funding and phased implementation.

SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE

[Palo Alto High School Social Justice Pathway](#)

[The School of Arts + Enterprise \(Pomona\)](#)