
MAGTown is an online tool to help develop aspirations and to support career exploration and future planning opportunities for Maine students in grades Prek-2. The MAGTown tool and related resources encourage young students to explore and learn about a total of 30 different jobs in Big City, Small Town and Country settings. Additional activities encourage students to think about their own futures, what jobs they might want to pursue and what kinds of education can get them there.

Why was it created and who's involved?

Maine historically has a high rate of high school graduation, but a lower rate of students continuing education after high school. Most areas of job growth in the economy of today and of tomorrow require some education or training beyond a high school diploma. Maine students, like students everywhere, would benefit from engaging in early thinking and exploration about what kind of future they want for themselves.

Working with the Maine Department of Education and other partners, the Alford Scholarship Foundation (ASF) has built an on-line tool to encourage Maine's youngest students to learn about the wide range of opportunities available to them and encourage them to think about their future selves.

Content for the site has been developed with input from many experts, and with an eye on alignment with Maine's Learning Results. As students complete the various tasks encouraged by the tools, these tasks build a foundation of knowledge and experience that supports their future success.

The goal of the MAGTown tool is to provide a fun and engaging way for Maine's youngest students to learn about a wide range of future possibilities for themselves.

How does it work?

Students will be encouraged to visit the MAGTown page on the MyAlfondGrant.org website. Once there they can explore three different landscapes (Big City, Small Town and Country) and find the 10 different jobs represented in each. When a student clicks on a person doing a particular job, a very brief (1-2 sentence) description of what the job is, why the person likes doing the job and what kind of education they needed to be prepared to do it (e.g. “Hi, I’m a firefighter. I use math every day and went to college for two years so I can help people stay safe.”). Students can explore by finding the people who populate the landscapes, or by navigating a list of occupations on the bottom of the page. Additional information and resources for students also offer age-based explanation of terms, share information in a “did you know” format, and provide links to other fun activities and resources for children in grades PreK-2.

We encourage you to let students know that they can find these careers in many different communities, they are not limited to the sector that you find them. Encourage them that People can also live in one place and work in a different place. The possibilities are endless!

Additional information, resources, and a glossary of terms are provided for Parents and/or Teachers, along with some suggested conversation starters.

How does this align with Maine’s Learning Results?

The Alford Scholarship Foundation has worked closely with the Maine Department of Education to understand where the suggested student activities in MAGTown align with various content standards of the Maine Learning Results.

The activities align with the following ***Life and Career Ready Standards***:

A.1 Self-Knowledge

Students demonstrate an understanding of their own capabilities, characteristics, attitudes and how these attributes impact their future choices, including local, state, national, and global opportunities.

Performance Expectation: Students demonstrate and reflect on likes and dislikes.

B. Exploring Opportunities

Students understand their options and can navigate choices and experiences concerning interests and future opportunities.

Performance Expectation: Students engage in new experiences and ask questions to promote creativity and curiosity about their interests.

C.2 Career Awareness and Adaptability

Students integrate personal aptitudes and interests, changing employment trends, community needs, and current economic conditions into ongoing career plans, adapting as necessary.

Performance Expectation: Students explore jobs/careers and how these roles contribute to the community.

What's my role?

At its core, the MAGTown tool is a learning opportunity for students – and an opportunity for the adults around them to support their aspirations. When teachers encourage their young students to use the MAGTown tool, it supports their ability to imagine a variety of future opportunities. The related resources offered as part of the tool share a glossary of terms, links to additional resources and suggested “conversation starters” to help the adults in students’ lives encourage and support their exploration.

What else can I do?

Check out the resources, glossary and conversation-starters and their related links for Parents and Teachers on the MAGTown page. And, encourage your student(s) to also visit the additional activities, links and resources available for them on the MAGTown page.

What is the Alfond Scholarship Foundation?

The Alfond Scholarship Foundation (ASF) is a non-profit organization created by Maine businessman and philanthropist, Harold Alfond, to invest a \$500 Alfond Grant at birth for every Maine resident baby for their future education. [Learn more about ASF here.](#)

For every baby born a Maine resident since 2013, the Alfond Scholarship Foundation invests a \$500 Alfond Grant for his or her future qualified higher education expenses. (The Alfond Grant was also available on a more limited basis from 2008-2012.)