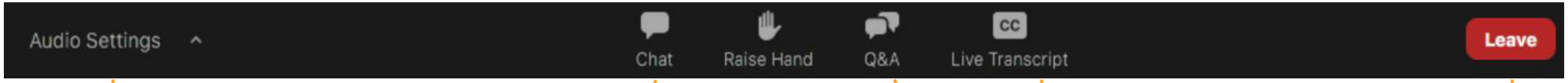
The MEFA Institute

Career-Centric Pathway Planning with the MEFA Pathway Curriculum

MEFA

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How to Participate



The *Audio Settings* allow you to control the volume levels

The *Chat* feature is disabled. To communicate with the host, please use the *Q&A* section

Use the *Live Transcript* feature if you want to see closed captions

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About MEFA

About MEFA

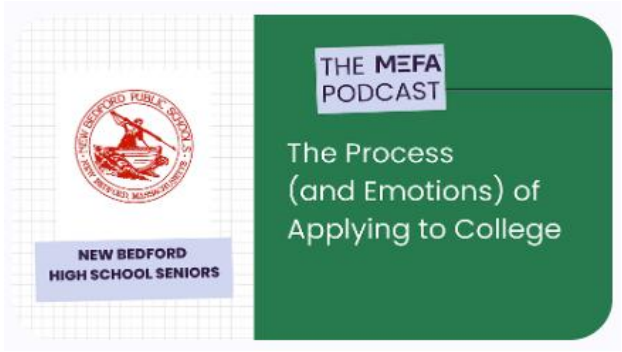
State authority created by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1982, helping families plan, save, and pay for college



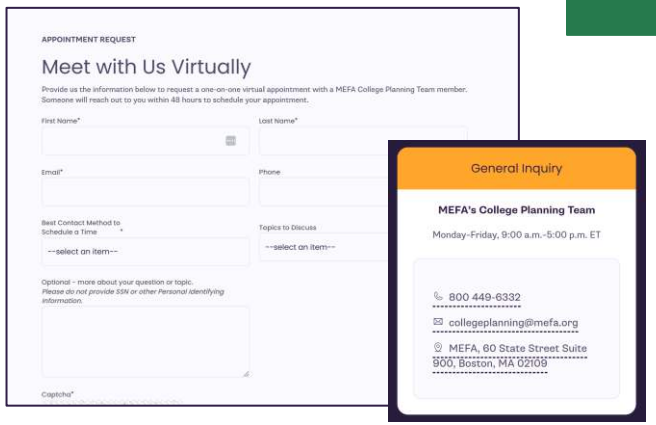
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Delivering Guidance

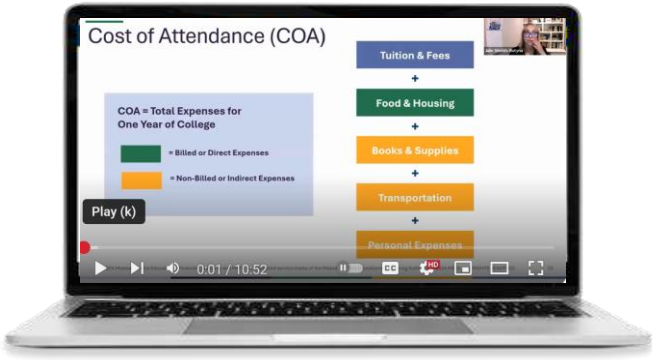
MEFA's full catalogue of guidance outreach includes extensive expertise and content on college and career



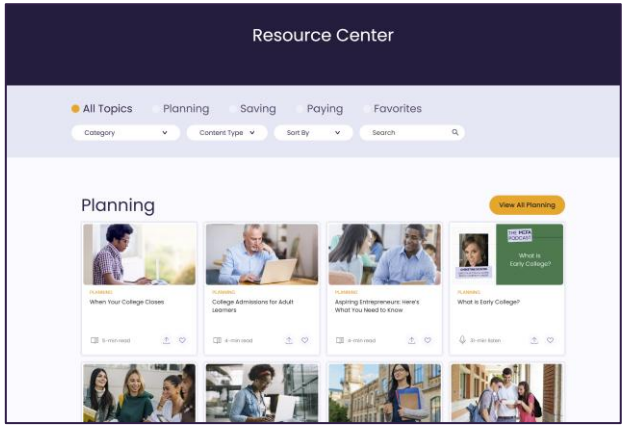
The MEFA Podcast
Conversations on a range of topics



Customer Service
Experts available via email, phone, and one-on-one appointments



Live and On-Demand Webinars
Presenters focusing on a range of topics



mefa.org
MEFA's website features streamlined and updated content that is easy to navigate; find content based on each child's age and pathway



Active Social Media Network
Posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn

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Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to the MEFA Institute!

Thank you for joining us. Today we'll explore how the MEFA Pathway Curriculum helps educators bring career-centric pathway planning to life for every student in grades 6–12.

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Navigate the lesson categories and scope & sequence
- Walk through a lesson plan from start to finish
- Customize lessons to fit your students and schedule

TODAY'S PRESENTER



Dr. Kim Oppelt

VP, Career Readiness & Development

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Today's Agenda

1. About MEFA
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Career-Centric Pathway Planning
4. Lesson Categories
5. Scope & Sequence + Components
6. Lesson Plan Spotlight
7. Live Lesson Demonstration
8. Best Practices for Customizing Lessons
9. Next Steps & Accessing Lessons

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Poll: Grade Levels

LIVE POLL

What grade level(s) do you work with? Select all that apply.

6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Middle School			High School			

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Understanding MEFA Pathway

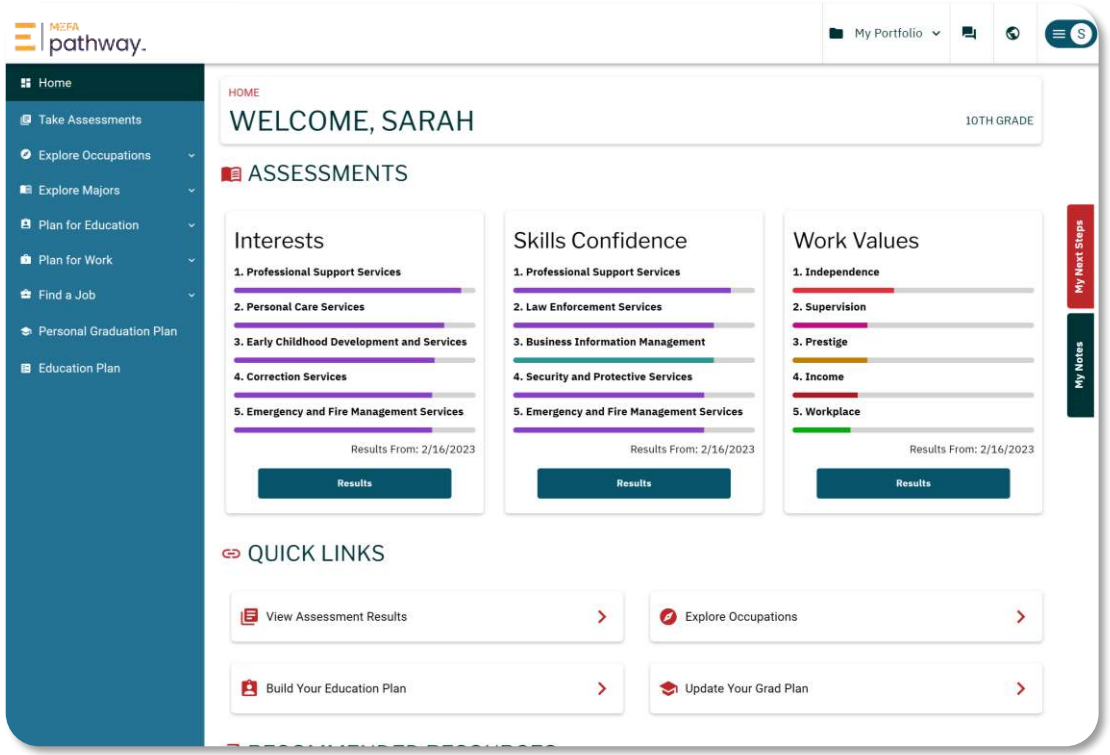
MEFA Pathway: Core Solutions

- Supporting a complete 6-12th grade career planning approach
- An intuitive experience for students
- Accountability tools for educators and families
- All with service, affordability, and ease of use in mind

- ✓ Streamlined Access & Service
- ✓ Personalized Career Planning Toolset for All Ages
- ✓ Complete Work-Based Learning Module
- ✓ Intuitive & Proven User Experience
- ✓ Self-Service & Custom-Designed Reporting
- ✓ Configurable Technology Platform
- ✓ Professional Learning & Certifications

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6th-12th Grade CCR Features Overview



- ✓ Research-Based Career Assessments
- ✓ Education & Graduation Plans
- ✓ College Access & Prep
  - College Match
  - Common App
- ✓ Work-Based Learning
- ✓ Goal Setting & Reflections
- ✓ Financial Tools & Financial Aid Information
- ✓ Lifelong Portfolio, Resume Builder, Interview Skills
- ✓ Career Guidance Curriculum
- ✓ Robust Data (Micro & Macro)
- ✓ SSO & SIS Integrations

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Career Centric Pathway Planning

Supporting 100% of Your Student Population

- The **Career-Centric Pathway Planning** model puts the career as the destination for ***all* learners,** allowing them to build a pathway around their specific career aspirations.
- Individuals have a step-by-step action plan to:
  - **Discover** interests, skills confidence, & work values
  - **Explore** opportunities & career pathways
  - **Plan** for education & training
  - **Prepare** for their best-fit career including work-based learning experiences



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MyCAP Domain

Every lesson aligns with a specific activity students complete inside MEFA Pathway.

1

Academic Skills

Study habits, goal setting, and academic planning that help students succeed in school and beyond.

2

Social Emotional Learning

Self-awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making that build confidence.

3

College & Career Exploration

Assessments, career research, and postsecondary options connected to each student's interests.

4

Financial Literacy

Budgeting, the cost of education and training, and paying for the path ahead.

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Poll: MyCAP Domain

LIVE POLL

Which area do you spend the most time on?

- **A** Academic Skills
- **B** Social Emotional Learning
- **C** College & Career Exploration
- **D** Financial Literacy

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Lesson Categories

Seven lesson categories, each aligned to an activity students complete inside MEFA Pathway.

1 Career Exploration

Research careers, pathways, and required education.

2 Goal Setting

Set short- and long-term goals and reflect on progress.

3 Academic Skills

Build study habits and plan courses that support success.

4 Self-Discovery

Uncover interests, skills confidence, and work values.

5 Post-High School Planning

Compare college, training, military, and workforce options.

6 Resume Building

Capture experiences and skills in a polished resume.

7 Financial Literacy

Budget and plan to pay for education and training.

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Scope & Sequence + Components

Scope & Sequence

Lessons are organized by grade level so skills build year over year.



Use the recommended sequence as-is or **build a custom scope & sequence** for your school or district.

Every lesson includes

- **Grade level & category** Where the lesson fits
- **MEFA Pathway activity** The in-product task it aligns to
- **Vocabulary words** Key terms to introduce
- **Future-ready skills** Skills students practice
- **Estimated duration** Plan time for your block

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Scope & Sequence

MEFA Pathway Scope & Sequence

Career-Centric Pathway Planning Lessons

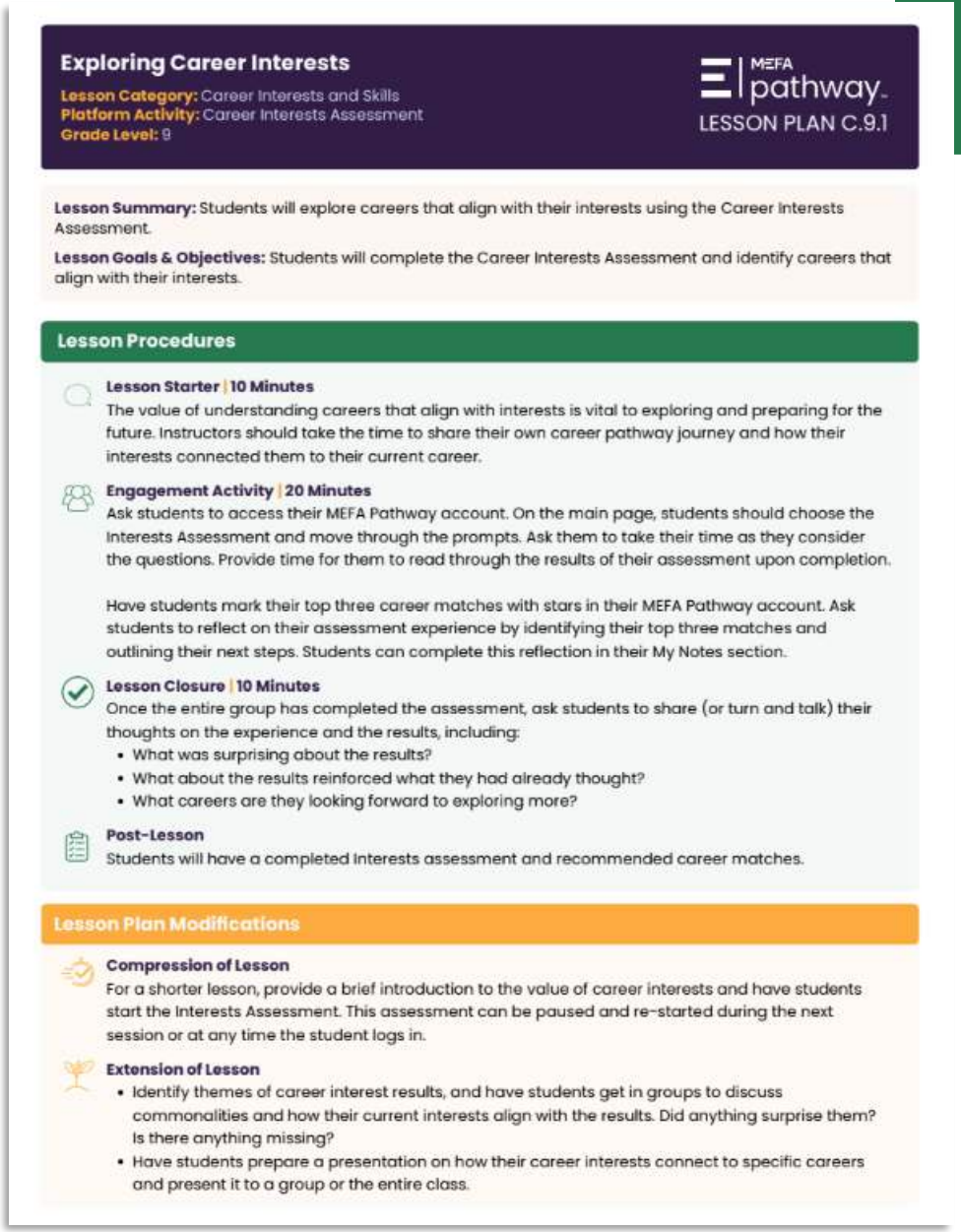
Leverage the outline below to guide your 6th-12th grade students through career readiness curriculum. Save this guide as a template to customize for your implementation needs!

MyCAP Domain	Lesson Category	Grade	Lesson (Click to Download)	Accompanying PPT	Tool	Outcome
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	6	Introduction to MEFA Pathway	Introduction to MEFA Pathway	Scavenger Hunt	Understand the tools available to them in MEFA Pathway.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	6	Exploring Career Interests	Exploring Career Interests	Career Interests Assessment	Understand their own interests through the Career Interests Assessment.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	6	Aligning Interests with Careers	Aligning Interests with Careers	Explore Clusters by Assessment Results	Identify at least three careers that match their interests.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	6	Scanning the World of Possibilities	Scanning the World of Possibilities	Career Interests Assessment	Identify career influences, key exploration reasons, and future topics.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	6	What are Goals?	What are Goals?	Goals	Understand the value and concept of goals as well as their importance in pathway planning.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	6	Setting Academic Goals	Setting Academic Goals	Goals	Set one academic-related SMART goal.
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academic Skills	6	Developing Study Habits	Developing Study Habits	Goals	Identify skills and habits needed to be successful in school.
Personal-Social	Self-Discovery	7	Embarking on a Voyage of Self Discovery	Embarking on a Voyage of Self Discovery	Career Interests Assessment	Define self-concept and connect it to roles and career choices.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	7	Understanding Skills Confidence	Understanding Skills Confidence	Skills Confidence Assessment	Students understand their own skills and how they may connect with future careers.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	7	Assessing Skills Confidence	Assessing Skills Confidence	Occupations by Assessment Results	Have an understanding of how skills connect to career aspirations and will understand their own skills confidence levels.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	7	Exploring Career Pathways	Exploring Career Pathways	Occupations by Assessment Results	Understand their Skills Confidence Assessment and save three careers.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	7	Set a Career-Related Goal	Set a Career-Related Goal	Goals	Create a minimum of one career-related goal.
Career Development and Education	Post-High School Planning	7	Post-Secondary Education Opportunities	Post-Secondary Education Opportunities	Options after High School	Define self-concept and connect it to roles and career choices.
Career Development and Education	Career Preparation	7	Using Guideposts to Direct Your Journey	Using Guideposts to Direct Your Journey	Career Profiles	Identify personal job values and traits, then connect them to potential occupations of interest.
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academic Skills	7	Developing Career Interests	Developing Career Interests	Career Profiles, Education Profiles	Understand how career interests align to career opportunities.
Personal-Social	Self-Discovery	8	Finding Your Personal Compass Points	Finding Your Personal Compass Points	Career Profiles and Clusters	Identify, interpret, and apply their career interest and skill assessment results to explore aligned occupations.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	8	Exploring the Destinations	Exploring the Destinations	Career Interests Assessment	Identify how career groups relate to their self-concept and explore the clusters or environments they connect with most.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	8	The Value of Personal Goals	The Value of Personal Goals	Goal Setting	Have an understanding of the value and concept of personal goals as well as an introduction on the importance of personal growth.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	8	Setting Goals for the Future	Setting Goals for the Future	Goal Setting	Have an understanding of how high school experiences can help foster and shape personal goals.
Personal-Social	Goal Setting	8	Creating a Personal Goal for High School	Creating a Personal Goal for High School	Goal Setting	Understand how to create a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goal to support their personal aspirations in middle school, high school, and beyond.
Career Development and Education	Resume Building	8	Introduction to Resumes	Introduction to Resumes	Resumes	Begin the process of building a resume.
Career Development and Education	Resume Building	8	Preparing a Resume for High School	Preparing a Resume for High School	Resumes	Begin contributions to their resume.
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academics	8	Aligning High School Courses to Career Pathways	Aligning High School Courses to Career Pathwa	Ed Plan	Understand the connection between their future pathway and high school courses.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	9	Exploring Career Interests	Exploring Career Interests	Career Interests Assessment	Experience the process of a career interests assessment and gain an understanding of careers that connect to their interests.
Career Development and Education	Career Exploration	9	Identifying Career Clusters of Interest	Identifying Career Clusters of Interest	Explore Occupations	Identify and explore a minimum of three careers that align with their interests
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academics	9	Aligning Academics to Career Interests	Aligning Academics to Career Interests	Explore Occupations	Identify specific educational pathways of interest.
Career Development and Education	Resume Building	9	The Value of a Resume	The Value of a Resume	Resumes	Begin the process of building a resume.
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academics	9	Creating Plans of Study Through Career Interests	Creating Plans of Study Through Career Interes	Sample Education Plans by Career Cluster	Have a good understanding and a list of career courses that align with their interests.
Academic, College & Career Planning	Academics	9	Creating a High School Course Plan	Creating a High School Course Plan	Education Plans	Complete a four-year Education Plan.
Career Development and Education	Post-High School Planning	9	Mapping the Future	Mapping the Future	Options After High School	Describe changes in the workforce and identify key characteristics of career pathway planning for their future success.
						Identify different types of financial institutions, explain reasons for

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Lesson Plan Spotlight

Lesson	Exploring Career Interests
Grade Level	9
Category	Career Interests and Skills
MEFA Pathway Activity	Career Interests Assessment
Estimated Duration	40 Minutes
Summary	Students explore careers that align with their interests using the Career Interests Assessment



Exploring Career Interests

Lesson Category: Career Interests and Skills
Platform Activity: Career Interests Assessment
Grade Level: 9

MEFA pathway
LESSON PLAN C.9.1

Lesson Summary: Students will explore careers that align with their interests using the Career Interests Assessment.

Lesson Goals & Objectives: Students will complete the Career Interests Assessment and identify careers that align with their interests.

Lesson Procedures

Lesson Starter | 10 Minutes
The value of understanding careers that align with interests is vital to exploring and preparing for the future. Instructors should take the time to share their own career pathway journey and how their interests connected them to their current career.

Engagement Activity | 20 Minutes
Ask students to access their MEFA Pathway account. On the main page, students should choose the Interests Assessment and move through the prompts. Ask them to take their time as they consider the questions. Provide time for them to read through the results of their assessment upon completion.

Have students mark their top three career matches with stars in their MEFA Pathway account. Ask students to reflect on their assessment experience by identifying their top three matches and outlining their next steps. Students can complete this reflection in their My Notes section.

Lesson Closure | 10 Minutes
Once the entire group has completed the assessment, ask students to share (or turn and talk) their thoughts on the experience and the results, including:

- What was surprising about the results?
- What about the results reinforced what they had already thought?
- What careers are they looking forward to exploring more?

Post-Lesson
Students will have a completed interests assessment and recommended career matches.

Lesson Plan Modifications

Compression of Lesson
For a shorter lesson, provide a brief introduction to the value of career interests and have students start the Interests Assessment. This assessment can be paused and re-started during the next session or at any time the student logs in.

Extension of Lesson

- Identify themes of career interest results, and have students get in groups to discuss commonalities and how their current interests align with the results. Did anything surprise them? Is there anything missing?
- Have students prepare a presentation on how their career interests connect to specific careers and present it to a group or the entire class.

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Lesson Plan Spotlight

Lesson	Exploring Career Interests
Grade Level	9
Category	Career Interests and Skills
MEFA Pathway Activity	Career Interests Assessment
Estimated Duration	40 Minutes
Summary	Students explore careers that align with their interests using the Career Interests Assessment



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Poll: Time Per Lesson

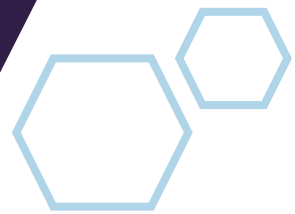
LIVE POLL

How much time do you spend on a student lesson?

- **A** Under 15 minutes
- **B** 15–30 minutes
- **C** 30–45 minutes
- **D** 45+ minutes

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Live Lesson Demo



Customizing Your Lesson Plans

1 Start with your goals

Align lessons to school priorities, MyCAP, and grade-level benchmarks.

2 Map the year

Build a scope & sequence so each grade builds on the last.

3 Fit your schedule

Adapt timing for advisory, homeroom, or classroom blocks.

4 Make it local

Add regional employers, programs, and local labor market examples.

5 Meet every learner

Adjust scaffolds and supports so all students can participate.

6 Collaborate & reflect

Partner with teachers and use student reflections to refine.

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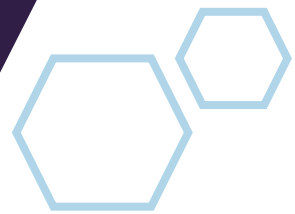
Accessing the Scope + Sequence

Preview featured lessons: https://help.kuder.com/en/articles/17004143-mefa-pathway-lessons-mycap-guides

Have Questions? Email mefapathway@kuder.com

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Next Steps



Start here! MEFA Pathway Interest Form

Step 1: Complete the MEFA Pathway Interest form.

Step 2: Sign & submit the MEFA Pathway Agreement, if needed.

Step 3: Look out for a communication from MEFA Pathway Implementation Team.



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What Happens Next?

After submitting the form, your district or school will:

- Be assigned to a rollout wave and receive an implementation timeline.
- Register for and participate in MEFA Pathway training webinar(s).
- Partner with the MEFA Pathway Implementation Team to configure platform features, permissions, and access for participating schools.

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Upcoming MEFA Pathway Webinars

November 17 at 8AM



MEFA Institute:

Work-Based Learning Inside the Redesigned MEFA Pathway

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Resources

MEFA's In-Person Financial Aid Training Register Now!

Date: Friday, November 6, 2026
Time: 8:00 AM-2:30 PM
Location: Assumption University



What you can expect:

- **Financial Aid 101 & 201:** Beginner and advanced sessions covering key financial aid topics
- **Support for Undocumented Students:** Financial aid resources and guidance to help serve this student population
- **Resources to Help Foster Youth:** A specialized presentation from the Department of Children & Families
- **MEFA Resources for Educators:** Tools and programs to support your work with students and families

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MEFA Ambassador Program

If you're hoping to host a MEFA Seminar (such as a Financial Aid Night) at your school this fall with one of our expert MEFA Ambassadors, schedule it now!

Follow these four steps:

1. Select an Ambassador from our list online and reach out directly to the Ambassador to find out their availability and coordinate a date and time for your event.
2. Once the seminar details are confirmed with the Ambassador, report your event to MEFA using our online form.
3. Promote your event using the resources available on our website.
4. Share your event feedback and final attendee count in the survey you receive after the event.

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MEFA Resources for Families

FAFSA Festivals

November 17
December 16

Drop in anytime
4-6 PM

Webinars

Upcoming and recorded webinars on a variety of topics

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youtube.com/MEFAcounselor

mefa.org/mefa-podcast

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Thank You!

Questions?



(800) 449-MEFA (6332)



k12support@mefa.org

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