

**POSSIBLE FUTURES**

The [**Possible Futures—Career Exploration Curriculum**](https://www.jff.org/idea/possible-futures/) provides career exploration for learners, **grades 6 through 10**, in school and afterschool settings with a vision that every young person will gain the foundational knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to make critical decisions about their future with confidence. Below are descriptions and links to the curriculum, some fantastic adaptations from local partners, two related guides, and other resources all aimed at: **1)** expanding career awareness through authentic experiential learning opportunities; **2)** encouraging students to explore their diverse interests, talents, and options; **3)** enlivening STEM subjects by bringing in real-world and career contexts; **4)** empowering students to develop vital employability skills; and **5)** engaging students in making informed choices.

| **Curriculum** | **Description/Links** |
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| **New, Digital Possible Futures**  **\*synchronous & asynchronous\***  *(Remote, Hybrid, In-person)* | **Interactive, *\*student-facing\** lessons available to download as SCORM files or web links** *(SCORM is compatible with Canvas and other learning management systems [LMS] although not Google Classrooms)*; **Requires devices and internet access and includes facilitator guides for instructors.**  [**SCORM files available** here](https://share.hsforms.com/11erYRiEQTfqW37yIHNxy2gbmx3v?__hstc=170447551.3ee89f19005205ee01eb6072e57873b9.1693242216291.1698856284140.1698934885264.91&__hssc=170447551.4.1698934885264&__hsfp=3590817490) **(Fill out the form & you will receive an email–check your spam or junk box if it doesn’t arrive!)**  [URL versions here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tLGJMW_qnBSDa_x2NC9II_xStHUTY3VG/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109682126639779172449&rtpof=true&sd=true) [Unit Overviews here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AYW6QCY4sAC2UvbfQNAR7QK-XmmbiF_w?usp=sharing) |
| **Employability Skills for Success**  **(1 unit)**  Learners develop essential employability skills. | **A 12 lesson unit** that integrates lessons on Communication, Collaboration, Growth Mindset and Self-Regulation. |
| **Lenses on the Future (1 unit)** Learners chart a path to future success by identifying their personal interests and strengths, considering the life they want to lead, and exploring potential ways they can contribute to society. | **A 12 lesson unit** that integrates lessons on Self, Society, and Security. |
| **STEMploration (4 units)**  Learners explore careers, assume roles as Young Professionals | **A 12 lesson unit** for each STEM area (48 lessons in total):   * IT * Health Sciences * Cybersecurity * Engineering and Design |
| **Original Version of Possible Futures (3 modules, 11 units)**  *(In-person)* | **Ready-to-use, comprehensive lesson plans (PDFs and word documents) include preparation and facilitation guidance for instructors and student-facing handouts.**  [**Access all 3 modules** here.](https://jobsforthefuture552-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/possiblefutures_jff_org/EkW_xTW7G91CvUWPE-xH674BR0H58iTSQNnuicLilCdtKQ?e=wGtb2x) [NOTE: if you’re having trouble accessing the files, please contact [possiblefutures@jff.org](mailto:possiblefutures@jff.org) and/or visit the [Google site](https://sites.google.com/view/pfvirtuallessons/home) from our partner, the Center for the Future of AZ] |
| **Employability Skills for Success module** | **4 units:** Collaboration, Communication, Growth Mindset, Self-Regulation |
| **Lenses on the Future module** | **3 units:** Self, Society, Security |
| **STEMploration module** | **4 units**: Engineering & Design, IT, Health Sciences, and Cybersecurity |
| **Videos** | **Aligned with Possible Futures STEM focus areas** |
| **Possible Futures Playlist** | **Edgefactor:** https://edgefactor.com/possible-futures  (No login required!) |
| **ADAPTATIONS** | **Created or inspired by PF implementation partners** |
| **Possible Futures Curriculum - Google site**  (Center for the Future of Arizona) | Much of the PF curriculum across all 3 original modules digitized; includes lesson google slides:  <https://sites.google.com/view/pfvirtuallessons/home> |
| **Middle School-Age Advisory**  (Dream Academy at Charlestown High School, Boston, MA) | A 6-month [Advisory curriculum](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kCptd0vDZjd8o0K12DRaRO0WbkHsv-qpz5mWrF_0sas/edit?usp=sharing) with Google slides and short, punchy activities. |
| **Career Literacy**  (Center for the Future of Arizona) | 3 unit options for combining selected lessons from *Skills for Success* and *Lenses on the Future* with the introductory lessons from each of the *STEMploration* units. The units also provide a model for aligning PF with state career literacy standards and the development of required individual student postsecondary plans.  <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TNcbmI0zDBeD8Wutz5msPo-Geynch0-E?usp=sharing> . |
| **Career Foundations**  (NYC, MOST, VT Afterschool Inc.) | A [streamlined combination](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o_ptPwvMk7OSUv93cpeh8sQB_PYugMd5/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109682126639779172449&rtpof=true&sd=true) of the *Lenses on the Future* and S*kills for Success* units. Recommended as a precursor to STEMploration units.  Vermont’s version: [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tG8sZOuovcrmUA872xJMoQnCtZFRw_nt/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109682126639779172449&rtpof=true&sd=true)  The Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) embedded the Career Foundations unit into a [College and Career Readiness Toolkit](https://www.mostnetwork.org/initiatives/ccr/#), a guide for OST providers. |
| **Growing Myself** (OregonASK) | [12 lessons](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BMW8aEO4O0cWbugEbmYkuAH2j0ssN7OQ?usp=sharing), combining the *Self* unit from Lenses on the Future and the *Growth Mindset* unit from Skills for Success. |
| **Communicating & Collaborating**  (OregonASK) | 12 lessons, combining lessons from the *Communication* and *Collaboration* units from the Skills for Success module.  <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-VRiwNF5wzT76OWWv9Sw-smqtxGqrKdR?usp=sharing> |
| **Hands-on Activities**  (Beyond School Bells/NE) | Designed specifically for afterschool and Out-of-School Time (OST) providers looking for engaging hands-on and collaborative activities:   * [Health Sciences](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1KXr8-pkqDLfr6dgmoZ_ito3InZU6cwd1%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C01%7Cmabeel%40jff.org%7Cdc902a043e374212621908da6ff49821%7C3bddf584e8d746c49804a0f3cdf0b0ca%7C0%7C0%7C637945394001140164%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b2B0kmb5%2F0hgzOPx2ofnGyVInCPyckyIXFqDnsxQNcY%3D&reserved=0) (6 activities + career posters) * [Information Technology](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1gF2en9rPgjFTPhQHgPjIIolB7KGpAk2E%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing%26ouid%3D117708726816934201599%26rtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&data=05%7C01%7Cmabeel%40jff.org%7Cdc902a043e374212621908da6ff49821%7C3bddf584e8d746c49804a0f3cdf0b0ca%7C0%7C0%7C637945394001140164%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QRMk%2BefdmWMrU7OgfzNeEqw8I211qnT4%2F8WrI5xVMK4%3D&reserved=0) (4 activities) * [Lenses on the Future - Self](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fdocument%2Fd%2F1CkHAyUkBdP3QvTO5THy9zBXpDQhgJd26%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing%26ouid%3D117708726816934201599%26rtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&data=05%7C01%7Cmabeel%40jff.org%7Cdc902a043e374212621908da6ff49821%7C3bddf584e8d746c49804a0f3cdf0b0ca%7C0%7C0%7C637945394001140164%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ARevfca0%2FWdrAF6dEXYKyftAeEab8KJmPzqVyIn6rCk%3D&reserved=0) (7 activities) |
| **Mini units** | **Communication virtual mini-unit** (5 lessons) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZYM1vE69Wl9Qn42Icg-Onux6bDGltjHK/view?usp=sharing>  **Self virtual mini-unit** (5 lessons): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1puneVm1NWPx4eIyVph4N88FPjwyEXM9r/view?usp=sharing> |
| **JFF GUIDES** | **Description/Links** |
| **Career and College Exploration Experiences: Planning for Success**  **A Career-Oriented Summer: Planning Your Summer Bridge Program** | A detailed guide with resources for providing middle and high school students with opportunities to explore their options for the future.  [Career and College Exploration Experiences: Planning for Success - Jobs for the Future (JFF)](https://www.jff.org/resources/career-and-college-exploration-experiences/)  A guide to developing a comprehensive summer bridge program to support students as they transition into high school.  [A Career-Oriented Summer: Planning Your Summer Bridge Program - Jobs for the Future (JFF)](https://www.jff.org/resources/planning-summer-bridge/) |
| **STEM Next-JFF 2023 Policy Series** | [*Investing in Afterschool Programs Can Help Close Stubborn STEM Education Gaps*](https://www.the74million.org/article/investing-in-afterschool-programs-can-help-close-stubborn-stem-education-gaps/?utm_campaign=Possible%20Futures&utm_content=239105670&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&hss_channel=lcp-32853)(Melissa Moritz and Kyle Hartung, *The 74,* February 2023)  [Investing in After-School STEM is an Investment in Women](https://archive.jff.org/investing-in-after-school-stem-is-an-investment-in-women/) (Maud Abeel and Crystal Green, jff.org, March 2023)  [*Investing in Out-of-School Time STEM is an Investment in a Robust, Diverse STEM Workforce*](https://www.jff.org/idea/investing-in-out-of-school-time-stem-is-an-investment-in-a-robust-diverse-stem-workforce/) (JFF and STEM Next Opportunity Fund, jff.org, October 2023) |

*Notes:*

* Some lessons contain YouTube video links. Occasionally, those links become outdated. If you find a nonworking YouTube link either search for an alternate video or contact: [PossibleFutures@jff.org](mailto:PossibleFutures@jff.org)
* The new digital version of Possible Futures and the facilitator's guides were created with support from the Center for the Future of Arizona, Arizona State University (for the Cybersecurity unit), and the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC). This is why the lessons reference the [Pipeline AZ Career Exploration](https://pipelineaz.com/careers/search) website and the guides reference the [Arizona Career Literacy Standards](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2020/01/Arizona%20Career%20Literacy%20Standards%202-19-20.pdf?id=5e2b3d5503e2b30454ccad87).
  + *Free Career Exploration websites*. Most other states also have their own free career exploration websites such as NY's CareerZone, Minnesota State CAREERwise, and so on. At the federal level, [O\*NET Online](https://www.onetonline.org/), allows you to explore wage and employment trends by occupation and zip code. [CareerOneStop](https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/explore-careers.aspx) from the US Department of Labor includes free self-assessments, occupation profiles, and other career planning tools.
  + *State standards*. Most states have now established college and career readiness standards for core academic areas, but also specifically for career readiness or literacy, similar to AZ. Examples include: in 2020, New Jersey adopted the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards- Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills](https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2020/2020%20NJSLS-CLKS.pdf); the [Nebraska Career Readiness Standards](https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2017CareerReadinessBookletWEB.pdf) were adopted in 2011; [Pennsylvania’s Career Education and Work Standards (CEW)](https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/PACareerStandards/Pages/default.aspx), part of the state’s regulations of required education for all students, address four areas of knowledge: Career awareness and preparation; Career acquisition; Career retention and advancement; and Entrepreneurship

*Additional Resources:*

**JFF:**

* [Social Media Toolkit Guide Possible Futures 2022](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NfCYtUnMKKSh1LJKQv4JDRn2zJV0EB-D/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109682126639779172449&rtpof=true&sd=true)
* [STEM Next MGM JFF Possible Futures Training Video Series 2022](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1n4MwXwDMS3G4SS8uRqfkMK0g6iRxpA6pwy8x5kYcd5I/edit?usp=sharing)
* JFF’s [Computer Science career profiles](https://www.jff.org/resources/jobs-profiles/?utm_content=227027846&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&hss_channel=lcp-32853) were developed to help young people learn more about computer science occupations. The job profiles include key information such as common job tasks, necessary skills, median salary, alternative job titles, and preferred education levels. The profiles include the following occupations: computer user support specialist, software developer, website developer, information security analyst, vulnerability analyst, computer network support specialist, and computer and network systems administrator.

**Recommended by and for statewide afterschool networks:**

* [Personal and Workplace Success Skills Library](https://skills.worlded.org/search-resources/) includes resources about teaching personal and workplace success skills (developed and maintained by the [National College Transition Network [NCTN](https://www.collegetransition.org/)] at [World Education, Inc.](https://www.worlded.org/))
* [STEM Educators Activity Toolkit](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16aSZNQW5BjAGzXi8r6fX7hJOzp_Zy_x_/view) from [ExpandED Schools](https://www.expandedschools.org/)
* [STEM2D career exploration quiz](https://explorestem2d.fhi360.org/index.html). *How will you use your unique talents to make a difference?* This short, fun quiz (available in English & Spanish) gives students insights into incredible jobs in STEM.
* [If/Then](https://www.ifthenshecan.org/) is designed to activate a culture shift among young girls to open their eyes to STEM careers.