

## Newsletter/Email/Web Copy- general information about the Alfond Grant

Please use the following copy without changes or deletions. If you have questions, please contact FAME at 800-228-3734.

Headline/Subject Line: Plan Ahead for your Child's Future Education

*We're sharing this important message with you from the Alfond Scholarship Foundation (ASF) and the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). Our school is pleased to be participating in the Invest in ME Kindergarten initiative. Learn more about Invest in ME Kindergarten at [BrightFutureforME.com](http://BrightFutureforME.com).*

As you may know, ASF has invested a \$500 Alfond Grant for every baby born a Maine resident since January 1, 2013<sup>1</sup>. The Alfond Grant is a grant for education beyond high school. The \$500 Alfond Grant is a legacy gift from late philanthropist Harold Alfond to benefit future generations of Maine children. Mr. Alfond hoped the \$500 Alfond Grant would inspire families to also save for their children's higher education. As of August 31, 2019, the Foundation has invested over \$50 million for the future education of 100,000 Maine children!

Many Maine children entering kindergarten this fall have been awarded the Alfond Grant. Whether or not your child has received the Alfond Grant, kindergarten is a wonderful time to start thinking about your child's future and the things that you can do, such as save, to help them prepare for higher education success.

Learn more about Invest in ME Kindergarten at [BrightFutureforME.com](http://BrightFutureforME.com) where you will also find activities you can share with your child.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Alfond Grant is not awarded automatically in all circumstances and is also available (and was available prior to 2013) in limited other circumstances. The use of the Alfond Grant is also subject to certain restrictions - see Guidelines at [NextGenforME.com/AlfondGuidelines](http://NextGenforME.com/AlfondGuidelines).*

## Newsletter/Email/Web Copy, including information to share information about NextGen 529

*Please use the following copy without changes or deletions. If you have questions, please contact FAME at 800-228-3734.*

--

Headline/Subject Line: Plan Ahead for your Child's Future Education

*We're sharing this important information from the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). Our school is pleased to be participating in the Invest in ME Kindergarten initiative. Learn more about Invest in ME Kindergarten at [BrightFutureforME.com](http://BrightFutureforME.com).*

As you may know, the Alford Scholarship Foundation has invested a \$500 Alford Grant for every baby born a Maine resident since January 1, 2013<sup>1</sup>. The Alford Grant is a grant for education beyond high school. The \$500 Alford Grant is a legacy gift from late philanthropist Harold Alford to benefit future generations of Maine children. Mr. Alford hoped the \$500 Alford Grant would inspire families to also save for their children's higher education. As of August 31, the Foundation has invested over \$50 million for the future education of 100,000 Maine children!

Many Maine children entering kindergarten this fall have been awarded the Alford Grant. Whether or you're your child received the Alford Grant, kindergarten is a wonderful time to start thinking about your child's future and the things that you can do, such as save, to help them prepare for higher education success.

Parents or family members can also invest in a child's future by opening a NextGen 529™ (NextGen) account and making contributions. NextGen is Maine's Section 529 plan, which many families use to prepare for higher education expenses. There are NextGen matching grants<sup>2</sup> available for Maine residents- grants for opening an account, making contributions and automating contributions.

**For more information and to learn how to open an account, visit [NextGenforME.com](http://NextGenforME.com).**

*NextGen 529 is a Section 529 plan administered by the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). Before you invest in NextGen 529, request a NextGen 529 Program Description from your Merrill Financial Advisor or Maine Distribution Agent or call Merrill at 1-877-463-9843 and read it carefully. The Program Description contains more complete information, including investment objectives, charges, expenses and risks of investing in NextGen 529, which you should carefully consider before investing. You also should consider whether you or your designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's 529 plan. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, is the program manager and underwriter.*

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Alford Grant is not awarded automatically in all circumstances and is also available (and was available prior to 2013) in limited other circumstances. The use of the Alford Grant is also subject to certain restrictions - see Guidelines at [NextGenforME.com/AlfondGuidelines](http://NextGenforME.com/AlfondGuidelines).*

<sup>2</sup> *Matching grants are linked to eligible Maine accounts. Upon withdrawal, grants are paid only to institutions of higher education. See Terms and Conditions of Maine Grant Programs for other conditions and restrictions that apply at [NextGenforME.com](http://NextGenforME.com).*