

1 AN ACT relating to the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.7874 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885:

- 5 (1) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an  
6 administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 7 (2) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term, as  
8 defined in KRS 158.070;
- 9 (3) "ACT score" means the composite score achieved on the American College Test at  
10 a national test site on a national test date or the college admissions examination  
11 administered statewide under KRS 158.6453(5)(b)5. if the exam is the ACT, or an  
12 equivalent score, as determined by the authority, on the SAT administered by the  
13 College Board, Inc.;
- 14 (4) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
- 15 (5) "Award period" means the fall and spring consecutive academic terms within one  
16 (1) academic year;
- 17 (6) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created under KRS  
18 164.011;
- 19 (7) "Eligible high school student" means any person who:
- 20 (a) Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky  
21 resident;
- 22 (b) Was enrolled after July 1, 1998:
- 23 1. In a Kentucky high school for at least one hundred forty (140) days of  
24 the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive  
25 director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the  
26 KEES curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high  
27 school at the end of the academic year;

- 1                   2.    In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year  
2                   and who:  
3                   a.    Was enrolled during the entire academic term;  
4                   b.    Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the  
5                   fall academic term; and  
6                   c.    Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic  
7                   term of that academic year; or  
8                   3.    In the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the  
9                   Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, or in high  
10                  school at a model and practice school under KRS 164.380 while meeting  
11                  the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum  
12                  requirements;  
13                  (c)   Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year  
14                  beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a  
15                  student eligible under paragraph (b) 2. of this subsection; and  
16                  (d)   Is not a convicted felon;  
17                  (8)   "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of  
18                  the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating  
19                  institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of  
20                  admission and tuition assessment, who:  
21                  (a)   Earned a KEES award;  
22                  (b)   Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS  
23                  164.7881;  
24                  (c)   Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;  
25                  (d)   Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and  
26                  (e)   Is not a convicted felon;  
27                  (9)   "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

- 1 that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in  
2 which the student is enrolled;
- 3 (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an  
4 eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which  
5 the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school  
6 or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- 7 (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of  
8 Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in  
9 Science and Mathematics, a high school of a model and practice school under KRS  
10 164.380, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has  
11 been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with  
12 curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board  
13 of Education under KRS 156.160;
- 14 (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship  
15 provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- 16 (13) "KEES award" means:
- 17 (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for  
18 each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as  
19 adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;~~{and}~~
- 20 (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e) only, the KEES  
21 supplemental amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and
- 22 (c) For a student eligible under subsections (2)(e) and (3)(e) of Section 2 of this  
23 Act, the dual credit course award amount plus any KEES supplemental  
24 amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;
- 25 (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each  
26 academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;
- 27 (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible

- 1 high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 2 (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet  
3 the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined  
4 in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 5 (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student  
6 based on the student's ACT score pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 7 (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational  
8 excellence scholarship trust fund;
- 9 (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as  
10 compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education  
11 institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8)  
12 academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an  
13 undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;
- 14 (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is  
15 eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the  
16 authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the  
17 administration of its programs, and:
- 18 (a) 1. Is publicly operated;
- 19 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at  
20 least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program  
21 of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as  
22 regular students only high school graduates, recipients of a High School  
23 Equivalency Diploma, or students transferring from another accredited  
24 degree granting institution; or
- 25 3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that  
26 offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any  
27 institution in the Commonwealth; and

1 (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance  
2 programs; and

3 (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study  
4 who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution  
5 in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,  
6 or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.

7 ➔Section 2. KRS 164.7879 is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards shall be based upon an  
9 established base scholarship amount and an eligible high school student's grade  
10 point average. The base scholarship amount for students attaining a grade point  
11 average of at least 2.5 for the 1998-1999 academic year shall be as follows:

12	GPA	Amount	GPA	Amount
13	2.50	\$125.00	3.30	\$325.00
14	2.60	\$150.00	3.40	\$350.00
15	2.70	\$175.00	3.50	\$375.00
16	2.75	\$187.00	3.60	\$400.00
17	2.80	\$200.00	3.70	\$425.00
18	2.90	\$225.00	3.75	\$437.00
19	3.00	\$250.00	3.80	\$450.00
20	3.10	\$275.00	3.90	\$475.00
21	3.20	\$300.00	4.00	\$500.00
22	3.25	\$312.00		

23 The authority shall review the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence  
24 scholarship each academic year and may promulgate an administrative regulation to  
25 make adjustments after considering the availability of funds.

26 (2) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student the  
27 base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship for each

1 academic year of high school study in the Kentucky educational excellence  
2 scholarship curriculum that the high school student has attained at least a 2.5  
3 grade point average. The award shall be based upon the eligible high school  
4 student's grade point average at the close of each academic year. An award  
5 attributable to a past academic year shall not be increased after the award has  
6 been earned by an eligible high school student, regardless of any subsequent  
7 increases made to the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence  
8 scholarship through the promulgation of an administrative regulation by the  
9 authority.

10 (b) Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and "high  
11 school" in KRS 164.7874, any high school student who maintains Kentucky  
12 residency and completes the academic courses that are required for a  
13 Kentucky educational excellence scholarship while participating in an  
14 approved educational high school foreign exchange program or participating  
15 in the United States Congressional Page School may apply his or her grade  
16 point average for that academic year toward the base as described in paragraph  
17 (a) of this subsection. The grade point average shall be reported by the  
18 student's Kentucky home high school, based on an official transcript from the  
19 school that the student attended during the out-of-state educational experience.  
20 The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations that describe the  
21 approval process for the educational exchange programs that qualify under  
22 this paragraph. The provisions in this paragraph shall likewise apply to any  
23 Kentucky high school student who participated in an approved educational  
24 exchange program or in a Congressional Page School since the 1998-99  
25 school year and maintained his or her Kentucky residency throughout.

26 (c) 1. Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and  
27 "high school" in KRS 164.7874 and the requirement that a student

- 1 graduate from a Kentucky high school, a high school student who  
2 completes the KEES curriculum while attending an accredited out-of-  
3 state high school or Department of Defense school may apply the grade  
4 point average for any applicable academic year toward the base as  
5 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection and shall also qualify for a  
6 supplemental award under subsection (3) of this section when:
- 7 a. His or her custodial parent or guardian is in active service of the  
8 Armed Forces of the United States; and  
9 b. The custodial parent or guardian maintained Kentucky as the home  
10 of record at the time the student attended an accredited out-of-state  
11 high school or a Department of Defense school.
- 12 2. The student or parent shall arrange for the out-of-state school to report  
13 the student's grade point average each academic year and the student's  
14 highest ACT score to the authority as required under KRS 164.7885.  
15 The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations implementing  
16 the requirements in this paragraph, including:
- 17 a. The documentation that the parent shall submit to the authority  
18 establishing the student's eligibility for the scholarship; and  
19 b. The assurances that an out-of-state~~out-of-state~~ institution shall  
20 submit to the authority for submission of the student grade point  
21 average.
- 22 3. The provisions in this paragraph shall apply to the 2001-2002 school  
23 year and thereafter.
- 24 (d) Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, a student who meets the  
25 Kentucky core academic standards for high school graduation established in  
26 administrative regulation and graduates after completing three (3) years of  
27 high school shall receive a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship

1 award equivalent to completing high school in four (4) years. The award shall  
2 be determined by dividing the total actual KEES scholarship earned under  
3 subsection (1) of this section by three (3) and multiplying that number by four  
4 (4). The resulting number shall be the annual award the student is eligible for  
5 under subsection (1) of this section.

6 (e) 1. Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and  
7 "high school" in Section 1 of this Act, the authority shall commit to  
8 provide an award based on grades achieved for dual credit courses to  
9 Kentucky residents who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents  
10 of the United States and who graduate from a Kentucky nonpublic  
11 secondary school not certified by the Kentucky Board of Education.

12 2. An award calculated under this paragraph shall be based on the  
13 average grade point average achieved for a minimum of two (2) but  
14 including all dual credit courses taken during high school at a college  
15 or university whose main campus is located in Kentucky and shall be  
16 calculated using the same scale used to calculate the grade point  
17 average of an eligible high school student. The dual credit course  
18 award amount shall be the corresponding grade point average base  
19 amount provided in subsection (1) of this section multiplied by four  
20 (4).

21 3. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations  
22 establishing the eligibility criteria and procedures for implementing  
23 this paragraph.

24 4. The provisions in this paragraph shall apply to high school students  
25 graduating from high school after the 2022-2023 academic year.

26 (3) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student  
27 graduating from high school before June 30, 1999, and achieving a score of at



least 15 on the American College Test, a supplemental award for the award period beginning in the fall of 1999, based on the eligible high school student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined as follows:

ACT	Annual	ACT	Annual
Score	Bonus	Score	Bonus
15	\$21	22	\$171
16	\$43	23	\$193
17	\$64	24	\$214
18	\$86	25	\$236
19	\$107	26	\$257
20	\$129	27	\$279
21	\$150	28 or above	\$300

Subsequent supplemental awards for eligible high school students graduating before June 30, 1999, shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection.

- (b) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student upon achievement after June 30, 1999, of an ACT score of at least 15 on the American College Test a supplemental award based on the eligible high school student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined as follows:

ACT	ACT
Score	Score
Amount	Amount
15	22
\$36	\$286
16	23
\$71	\$321
17	24
\$107	\$357

1	18	\$143	25	\$393
2	19	\$179	26	\$428
3	20	\$214	27	\$464
4	21	\$250	28 and above	\$500

5 The authority shall review the base amount of the supplemental award  
6 beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year and each academic year  
7 thereafter and may promulgate an administrative regulation to make  
8 adjustments after considering the availability of funds.

9 (c) Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, the authority shall commit to  
10 provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for Advanced  
11 Placement or International Baccalaureate as defined in KRS 164.002 to an  
12 eligible high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced-  
13 price lunch for any year during high school enrollment.

- 14 1. The supplemental award for AP examination scores are as follows:
  - 15 a. Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of three (3);
  - 16 b. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of four (4); and
  - 17 c. Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of five (5).
- 18 2. The supplemental award for IB examination scores are as follows:
  - 19 a. Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of five (5);
  - 20 b. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of six (6); and
  - 21 c. Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of seven (7).

22 (d) Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, the authority shall commit to  
23 provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for  
24 Cambridge Advanced International as defined in KRS 164.002 to an eligible  
25 high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch  
26 for any year during high school enrollment. The supplemental award for  
27 Cambridge Advanced International examination scores are as follows:

- 1           1.    Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of "e";
- 2           2.    Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of "c" or "d"; and
- 3           3.    Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of "a\*", "a", or "b".
- 4       (e)   The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the
- 5           eligibility criteria and procedures for making a supplemental award to
- 6           Kentucky residents who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the
- 7           United States and who graduate from a nonpublic secondary school not
- 8           certified by the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky residents who are
- 9           citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States and who obtain
- 10          a High School Equivalency Diploma within five (5) years of their high school
- 11          graduating class, and students under subsection (2)(c) of this section who do
- 12          not attend an accredited high school.