

KENTUCKY AEROSPACE EDUCATION CENTER

KAEC

INSPIRING KENTUCKY'S FUTURE IN AEROSPACE

HOME OF

THE AVIATION MUSEUM OF KENTUCKY

Inspiring Kentucky's Future in Aerospace

Kentucky's aerospace and aviation sector is a dynamic economic driver, outpacing bourbon and horses with **\$18.9 billion** in exports, **23,000 direct jobs** and **thousands of indirect jobs**.

Yet, a critical challenge looms: too few Kentuckians are aware of – or prepared for – careers in this thriving industry. The Aviation Museum of Kentucky (AMK) is addressing this gap by launching the **Kentucky Aerospace Education Center (KAEC)**, a

bold initiative to inspire and train the next generation of pilots, engineers, technicians, and innovators.

To amplify our impact, we are relocating to a high-visibility site at **Man O' War Boulevard and Airport Road**, modernizing facilities to engage students, families, and visitors. Investing in KAEC isn't just funding a museum – it's fueling Kentucky's economic future. With your support, we'll close the skills gap, supercharge exports, and keep our state soaring.

2026 Budget Request

We are requesting **\$4 million** in one-time funding from the state – **\$2 million** each year of the biennium. This allocation is part of a **\$32 million** public-private capital campaign. We anticipate up to **\$1 million** in infrastructure funding from the Lexington City Council, as well as significant contributions from industry partners and private donors who have already begun supporting the project. The state's investment, added to strong private commitments, will drive the project forward at full scale and deliver maximum return for Kentucky's workforce and economy.



ROI for Kentucky

✿ **Workforce Development:** The KAEC will immerse Kentucky students in hands-on aerospace learning, connecting them to career pathways in an industry that already drives billions in state exports. These jobs are stable, high-paying, and in demand now.

✿ **Statewide Reach:** AMK's 2025 summer aviation camps – serving more than 425 students in Lexington, Northern Kentucky, Bowling Green, Pikeville, and Owensboro – will expand in scope and reach to Ashland and other sites next year.

✿ **Career Pipeline:** From FAA Drone Pilot Prep classes to Military Academy Days and Parents' Nights, KAEC programs will engage students from grade school through career entry, linking them directly to employers, service academies, and higher education partners.

✿ **Tourism & Economic Impact:** A revitalized, strategically located museum will attract more visitors, boosting tourism revenue in Lexington and across Kentucky while celebrating the state's rich aviation heritage.