

**CHAPTER 278****(HB 59)**

AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards.

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

Section 1. KRS 164.7879 is amended to read as follows:

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

GPA	Amount	GPA	Amount
2.50	\$125.00	3.30	\$325.00
2.60	\$150.00	3.40	\$350.00
2.70	\$175.00	3.50	\$375.00
2.75	\$187.00	3.60	\$400.00
2.80	\$200.00	3.70	\$425.00
2.90	\$225.00	3.75	\$437.00
3.00	\$250.00	3.80	\$450.00
3.10	\$275.00	3.90	\$475.00
3.20	\$300.00	4.00	\$500.00
3.25	\$312.00		

The council shall review the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship beginning with the 1999-2000 academic year and each academic year thereafter and may promulgate an administrative regulation to make adjustments after considering the availability of funds.

- (2) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship for each academic year of high school study in the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum that the high school student has attained at least a 2.5 grade point average. The award shall be based upon the eligible high school student's grade point average at the close of each academic year. An award attributable to a past academic year shall not be increased after the award has been earned by an eligible high school student, regardless of any subsequent increases made to the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship through the promulgation of an administrative regulation by the council.
- (b) Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and "high school" in KRS 164.7874, any high school student who maintains Kentucky residency and completes the academic courses that are required for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship while participating in an approved educational high school foreign exchange program or participating in the United States Congressional Page School may apply his or her grade point average for that academic year toward the

base as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection. The grade point average shall be reported by the student's Kentucky home high school, based on an official transcript from the school that the student attended during the out-of-state educational experience. The council shall promulgate administrative regulations that describe the approval process for the educational exchange programs that qualify under this paragraph. The provisions in this paragraph shall likewise apply to any Kentucky high school student who participated in an approved educational exchange program or in a Congressional Page School since the 1998-99 school year and maintained his or her Kentucky residency throughout.

(c) *Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and "high school" in KRS 164.7874 and the requirement that a student graduate from a Kentucky high school, a high school student who completes the KEES curriculum while attending an accredited out-of-state high school or Department of Defense school may apply the grade point average for any applicable academic year toward the base as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection and shall also qualify for a supplemental award under subsection (3) of this section when:*

1. *His or her custodial parent or guardian is in active service of the Armed Forces of the United States; and*
2. *The custodial parent or guardian maintained Kentucky as the home of record at the time the student attended an accredited out-of-state high school or a Department of Defense school.*

*The student or parent shall arrange for the out-of-state school to report the student's grade point average each academic year and the student's highest ACT score to the Kentucky Department of Education as required under KRS 164.7885. The Council on Postsecondary Education shall promulgate administrative regulations implementing the requirements in this paragraph, including:*

1. *The documentation that the parent shall submit to the council establishing the student's eligibility for the scholarship; and*
2. *The assurances that an out-of state institution shall submit to the Kentucky Department of Education for submission of the student grade point average.*

*The provisions in this paragraph shall apply to the 2001-2002 school year and thereafter.*

(3) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student 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 Score	Annual Bonus	ACT Score	Annual 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 Score	Amount	ACT Score	Amount
15	\$36	22	\$286
16	\$71	23	\$321
17	\$107	24	\$357
18	\$143	25	\$393
19	\$179	26	\$428
20	\$214	27	\$464
21	\$250	28 and above	\$500

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

- (c) The council shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the eligibility criteria and procedures for making a supplemental award to Kentucky residents who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States and who graduate from a nonpublic secondary school not certified by the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky residents who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States and who obtain a General Educational Development (GED) diploma within five (5) years of their high school graduating class, ***and students under subsection (2)(c) of this section who do not attend an accredited high school.***

Section 2. KRS 164.7881 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Eligible high school students who have graduated from high school and eligible postsecondary students who have earned a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and a supplemental award, or a supplemental award only pursuant to KRS 164.7879(3)(c), shall be eligible to receive the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and the supplemental award, or a supplemental award only for a maximum of eight (8) academic

terms in an undergraduate or other postsecondary program of study at a participating institution, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section.

- (2) To receive the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award, or a supplemental award only, an eligible high school or postsecondary student shall:
  - (a) Enroll in and attend a participating institution as a full-time student or a part-time student; and
  - (b) Maintain eligibility as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
- (3) Eligibility for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship or a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award shall terminate upon the earlier of:
  - (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the student's graduation from high school, except as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section; or
  - (b) The successful completion of an undergraduate or other postsecondary course of study. However, any student who successfully completes the requirements for a degree or certification involving a postsecondary course of study that normally requires less than eight (8) academic terms to complete may continue to receive the benefits of a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award, or a supplemental award only, for a cumulative total of eight (8) academic terms if the student enrolls as at least a part-time student in a four (4) year program.
- (4)
  - (a) The maximum award amount shall be determined by the council and shall be adjusted as provided in this subsection. The award amount ultimately determined to be available to an eligible postsecondary student for an award period shall be disbursed by the authority to the eligible postsecondary student in two (2) installments, with one (1) installment being disbursed in each of the two (2) academic terms during the award period.
  - (b) The authority shall, by promulgation of administrative regulations, provide for the proportionate reduction of the maximum award amount for an eligible postsecondary student for any academic term in which the student is enrolled on a part-time basis. Each academic term for which any scholarship or supplemental award funds are accepted by an eligible postsecondary student shall count as a full academic term, even if the award amount was reduced to reflect the part-time status of the eligible postsecondary student.
  - (c)
    1. An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program of study *or in the pharmacy program at the University of Kentucky* shall receive the maximum award amount for the first award period that the student is enrolled in and attending the program of study. To retain the maximum award for the second award period, an eligible postsecondary student shall have at least a 2.5 grade point average at the end of the first award period. To retain the maximum award amount for subsequent award periods, an eligible postsecondary student shall have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater at the end of the prior award period.
    2. Any eligible postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 but at least 2.5 at the completion of any award period

shall receive a reduction in the maximum award amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the maximum award amount for the next award period.

3. Any eligible postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.5 at the completion of any award period shall lose his or her award for the next award period.
  4. Each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the close of each award period the cumulative grade point average of each Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at the participating institution.
  5. Any student who loses eligibility through failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average may regain eligibility in a subsequent award period upon reestablishing at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average or its equivalent during a subsequent award period, as certified by the participating institution.
- (5) The expiration of a student's five (5) year eligibility shall be extended by the authority upon a determination that the student was unable to enroll for or complete an academic term due to any of the following circumstances:
- (a) A serious and extended illness or injury of the student, certified by an attending physician;
  - (b) The death or serious and extended illness or injury of an immediate family member of the student, certified by an attending physician, which would render the student unable to attend classes;
  - (c) Natural disasters that would render a student unable to attend classes; or
  - (d) Active duty status for the student in the United States Armed Forces or as an officer in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service, or active service by the student in the Peace Corps Act or the Americorps, for up to three (3) years.
- (6) An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled at a participating institution in a five (5) year undergraduate degree program designated in an administrative regulation promulgated by the council shall be eligible to receive the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and the supplemental award, or the supplemental award only for a maximum of ten (10) academic terms. The expiration of an eligible postsecondary student's five (5) year eligibility shall be extended to six (6) years for eligible postsecondary students meeting the requirements of this subsection.
- (7) Each eligible high school student who attains a 28 or above on the ACT and a 4.0 grade point average for all four (4) years of high school shall be designated as a "Senator Jeff Green Scholar" in honor of the late Senator Jeff Green of Mayfield, Kentucky, First District, and shall be recognized by the high school in a manner consistent with recognition given by the high school to other high levels of academic achievement.

Section 3. The changes made in Section 2.(4)(c)1. of this Act shall first apply to the 2000-2001 academic year.

**Approved April 9, 2002**