

AN ACT relating to Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships and declaring an emergency.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 164.002 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS Chapter 164, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Advanced placement" or "AP" means a college-level course that incorporates all topics and instructional strategies specified by the College Board on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is licensed by the College Board.

**(2) "Cambridge Advanced International" means the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma program, an international pre-university curriculum and examination system offered by Cambridge International Examinations at the University of Cambridge.**

~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ "College Board Advanced Placement examination" means the advanced placement test administered by the College Entrance Examination Board.

~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ "College Board" means the College Entrance Examination Board, a national nonprofit association that provides college admission guidance and advanced placement examinations.

~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ "Dual credit" means a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a high school student receives credit from both the high school and postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled upon completion of a single class or designated program of study, including participating in the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky.

~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ "Dual enrollment" means a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a student is enrolled in a high school and postsecondary institution simultaneously, including participating in the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky.

~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ "International Baccalaureate" or "IB" means the International Baccalaureate

Organization's Diploma Programme, a comprehensive two (2) year program designed for highly motivated students.

➔Section 2. 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 authority shall review the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship each academic year 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 authority.

- (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 authority 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) 1. 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:
- a. His or her custodial parent or guardian is in active service of the Armed Forces of the United States; and
  - b. 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.
2. 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 authority as required under KRS 164.7885. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations implementing the requirements in this paragraph, including:
    - a. The documentation that the parent shall submit to the authority establishing the student's eligibility for the scholarship; and
    - b. The assurances that an out-of state institution shall submit to the authority for submission of the student grade point average.
  3. The provisions in this paragraph shall apply to the 2001-2002 school year and thereafter.
- (d) Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, a student who meets the Kentucky core academic standards for high school graduation established in administrative regulation and graduates after completing three (3) years of high school shall receive a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship award equivalent to completing high school in four (4) years. The award shall be determined by dividing the total actual KEES scholarship earned under subsection (1) of this section by three (3) and multiplying that number by four (4). The resulting number shall be the annual award the student is eligible for under subsection (1) of this section.

- (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 authority 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) Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, the authority shall commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate as defined in Section 1 of this Act~~[KRS 158.007]~~ to an eligible high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced-price lunch for any year during high school enrollment.
1. The supplemental award for AP examination scores are as follows:
    - a. Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of three (3);
    - b. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of four (4); and
    - c. Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of five (5).
  2. The supplemental award for IB examination scores are as follows:
    - a. Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of five (5);
    - b. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of six (6); and
    - c. Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of seven (7).
- (d) Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, the authority shall commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for Cambridge Advanced International as defined in Section 1 of this Act to an

*eligible high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch for any year during high school enrollment. The supplemental award for Cambridge Advanced International examination scores are as follows:*

- 1. Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of "e";*
- 2. Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of "c" or "d"; and*
- 3. Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of "a\*", "a", or "b".*

(e) The authority 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 3. KRS 164.7874 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885:

- (1) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- (2) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term, as defined in KRS 158.070;
- (3) "ACT score" means the composite score achieved on the American College Test at a national test site on a national test date or the ACT exam administered statewide under KRS 158.6453(11)(a)3., or an equivalent score, as determined by the authority, on the SAT administered by the College Board, Inc.;
- (4) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;

- (5) "Award period" means the fall and spring consecutive academic terms within one (1) academic year;
- (6) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created under KRS 164.011;
- (7) "Eligible high school student" means any person who:
- (a) Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky resident;
  - (b) Was enrolled after July 1, 1998:
    - 1. In a Kentucky high school for at least one hundred forty (140) days of the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the KEES curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high school at the end of the academic year;
    - 2. In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year and who:
      - a. Was enrolled during the entire academic term;
      - b. Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the fall academic term; and
      - c. Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic term of that academic year; or
    - 3. In the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky while meeting the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum requirements;
  - (c) Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a student eligible under paragraph (b) 2. of this subsection; and
  - (d) Is not a convicted felon;



- (8) "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of admission and tuition assessment, who:
- (a) Earned a KEES award;
  - (b) Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS 164.7881;
  - (c) Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;
  - (d) Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and
  - (e) Is not a convicted felon;
- (9) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in which the student is enrolled;
- (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 156.160;
- (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- (13) "KEES award" means:
- (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as

adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and

- (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(~~e~~)(~~d~~), the KEES supplemental amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;
- (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;
- (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student based on the student's ACT score pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational excellence scholarship trust fund;
- (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8) academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;
- (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that actively participates in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of its programs, and:
- (a) 1. Is publicly operated;
2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as

- regular students only high school graduates or recipients of a General Educational Development (GED) diploma or students transferring from another accredited degree granting institution; or
3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any institution in the Commonwealth; and
- (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance programs; and
- (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours, or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.
- ➔Section 4. 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)(~~e~~)(~~d~~), 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 subsections (5) and (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 authority 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 delivered by the authority to the participating institution for disbursement to the eligible postsecondary student.
  - (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, except if the

eligible postsecondary student interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the end of that award period.

- (c) 1. An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program of study, in the pharmacy program at the University of Kentucky, or in a program of study designated as an equivalent undergraduate program of study by the authority in an administrative regulation, shall receive the maximum award amount for the first award period that the student is enrolled in and attending the program of study.
2. 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. If the eligible postsecondary student interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the end of that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall, subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the maximum award for the award period in which he or she resumes enrollment.
3. To retain the maximum award amount for subsequent award periods, an eligible postsecondary student shall have:
  - a. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater at the end of the prior award period. If the eligible postsecondary student interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the

end of that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall, subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the same award for the award period in which he or she resumes enrollment as he or she received in the award period in which enrollment was interrupted; or

- b. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater but less than 3.0 at the end of the prior award period and be on track to graduate. If the eligible postsecondary student interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the end of that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall, subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the same award for the award period in which he or she resumes enrollment as he or she received in the award period in which enrollment was interrupted.
4. Any eligible full-time postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 but at least 2.5 but is not on track to graduate 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.
5. 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.
6. a. 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.
- b. In addition to reporting the grade point average, beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the close of each award period whether a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient who initially enrolled in college in 2009-2010 or thereafter is on track to graduate.
7. 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 eight (8) academic terms and 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) 1. 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 the total number of years during which the

student was on active duty status. The number of months served on active duty status shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.

2. A student whose eligibility expired prior to July 15, 2008, due to the three (3) year time limit on eligibility extensions imposed by this paragraph prior to July 15, 2008, shall have his or her eligibility reinstated for the number of years beyond the three (3) years during which he or she was on active duty status. The number of months served on active duty status shall be rounded up to the next higher year to determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.
- (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 authority 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 participating institution shall notify its students of their terms of eligibility.
- (8) 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 5. KRS 164.7885 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Not later than August 1, 1999, and each June 30 thereafter, each Kentucky high



school shall submit to the authority, a compiled list of all high school students during the academic year. A high school shall report the grade point average of an eligible high school student pursuant to KRS 164.7874 by January 15 following the end of the fall academic term in which the student completed the high school graduation requirements. The list shall identify the high school and shall contain each high school student's name, Social Security number, address, grade point average for the academic year, expected or actual graduation date, highest ACT score, family eligibility status for free or reduced-price lunch, and each AP, Cambridge Advanced International, or IB examination score. The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky shall report the data on its students to the authority. The list need not contain the ACT, AP, Cambridge Advanced International, or IB if the authority receives the scores directly from the testing services. The authority shall notify each eligible high school student of his or her Kentucky educational excellence scholarship award earned each academic year. The authority shall determine the final Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award based upon the actual final grade point average, highest ACT score, and qualifying AP, Cambridge Advanced International, or IB scores and shall notify each eligible twelfth-grade high school student of the final determination. The authority shall make available a list of eligible high school and postsecondary students to participating institutions.

- (2) The authority shall provide data access only to the Kentucky Longitudinal Data System and to those participating institutions that have either received an admission application from an eligible high school or postsecondary student or have been listed by the eligible high school or postsecondary student on the Free Application For Federal Student Aid.
- (3) For each eligible postsecondary student enrolling in a participating institution after July 1, 1999, the participating institution shall verify to the authority:

- (a) The student's initial eligibility for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award, or supplemental award only pursuant to KRS 164.7879(3)(~~e~~)(~~d~~) through the comprehensive list compiled by the authority or an alternative source satisfactory to the authority;
  - (b) The student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high school, provided that the participating institution need not report the ACT score if the authority receives the ACT score directly from the testing services;
  - (c) The eligible postsecondary student's full-time or part-time enrollment status at the beginning of each academic term; and
  - (d) The eligible postsecondary student's cumulative grade point average after the completion of each award period.
- (4) Each participating institution shall submit to the authority a report, in a form satisfactory to the authority, of all eligible postsecondary students enrolled for that academic term. Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and supplemental awards shall be disbursed by the authority to each eligible postsecondary student attending a participating institution during the academic term within thirty (30) days after receiving a satisfactory report.
- (5) The Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and the supplemental award shall not be reduced, except as provided in KRS 164.7881(4).
- (6) Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and supplemental awards shall not be awarded or disbursed to any eligible postsecondary students who are:
- (a) In default on any loan under Title IV of the federal act; or
  - (b) Liable for any amounts that exceed annual or aggregate limits on any loan under Title IV of the federal act; or
  - (c) Liable for overpayment of any grant or loan under Title IV of the federal act;
- or

- (d) In default on any obligation to the authority under any programs administered by the authority until financial obligations to the authority are satisfied, except that ineligibility may be waived by the authority for cause.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 164.753, the authority may promulgate administrative regulations for the administration of Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and supplemental awards under the provisions of KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885 and KRS 164.7889.

➔Section 6. The provisions of this Act shall be applied retroactively beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.

➔Section 7. Whereas the Cambridge Advanced International program has been implemented in one or more Kentucky high schools, and students who have made qualifying scores on the Cambridge exams should be credited for Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship awards as soon as possible to apply to their postsecondary expenses, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.