

1 AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships.

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

- 1 which the student is enrolled;
- 2 (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an
3 eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which
4 the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school
5 or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- 6 (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of
7 Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in
8 Science and Mathematics, and any private, parochial, or church school located in
9 Kentucky that has been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily
10 complying with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the
11 Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 156.160;
- 12 (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship
13 provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- 14 (13) "KEES award" means:
- 15 (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for
16 each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as
17 adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and
- 18 (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e), the KEES supplemental
19 amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;
- 20 (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each
21 academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;
- 22 (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible
23 high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 24 (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet
25 the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined
26 in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 27 (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student

1 based on the student's ACT score pursuant to KRS 164.7879;

2 (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational
3 excellence scholarship trust fund;

4 (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as
5 compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education
6 institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8)
7 academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an
8 undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;

9 (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is
10 eligible to participate~~actively participates~~ in the federal Pell Grant program,
11 executes a contract with the authority on terms the authority deems necessary or
12 appropriate for the administration of its programs, and:

13 (a) 1. Is publicly operated;

14 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at
15 least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program
16 of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as
17 regular students only high school graduates, recipients of a High School
18 Equivalency Diploma, or students transferring from another accredited
19 degree granting institution; or

20 3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that
21 offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any
22 institution in the Commonwealth; and

23 (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance
24 programs; and

25 (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study
26 who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution
27 in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,

1 or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.

2 ➔Section 2. KRS 164.7884 is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Academic year" means July 1 through June 30 of each year;

5 (b) "Apprentice" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010;

6 (c) "Eligible student" means an eligible high school student who has graduated
7 from high school or a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e);

8 (d) **"Qualified workforce training program" means a program that is in one (1)**
9 **of Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand work sectors as determined by the**
10 **Kentucky Workforce Investment Board;**

11 (e) "Registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program that:

- 12 1. Is established in accordance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 343;
- 13 2. Requires a minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours of on-the-job work
14 experience;
- 15 3. Requires a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related
16 instruction for each year of the apprenticeship; and
- 17 4. Is approved by the Kentucky Labor Cabinet;

18 ~~(f)(e)~~ "Related instruction" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010; and

19 ~~(g)(f)~~ "Sponsor" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010.

20 (2) Notwithstanding KRS 164.7881, an eligible student who earned a KEES award ~~and~~
21 ~~is an apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program~~ shall be eligible for a
22 Kentucky educational excellence scholarship **if the student meets the requirements**
23 **of this section and is:**

24 (a) **An apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program; or**

25 (b) **Enrolled in a qualified workforce training program that has a current**
26 **articulation agreement for postsecondary credit hours with a participating**
27 **institution.**

- 1 (3) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an eligible student enrolled in a
2 registered apprenticeship program or, for the academic year beginning July
3 1, 2020, an eligible student enrolled in a qualified workforce training
4 program may receive reimbursement of tuition, books, required tools, and
5 other approved expenses required for participation in the ~~registered~~
6 ~~apprenticeship~~ program, upon certification by the sponsor and approval by
7 the authority.
- 8 (b) The reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive in an academic
9 year shall not exceed the student's KEES award maximum.
- 10 (c) The total reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive under this
11 section shall not exceed the student's KEES award maximum multiplied by
12 four (4).
- 13 (4) Eligibility for a KEES scholarship under this section shall terminate upon the earlier
14 of:
- 15 (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the eligible student's graduation
16 from high school or receiving a High School Equivalency Diploma ~~[GED]~~,
17 except as provided in KRS 164.7881(5); or
- 18 (b) The eligible student's successful completion of the registered apprenticeship
19 program or qualified workforce training program.
- 20 (5) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the
21 procedures for making awards under this section in consultation with the Kentucky
22 Labor Cabinet, the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and
23 the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet.