

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 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.