

1 AN ACT relating to student financial aid.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.767 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) No loan guarantee shall be approved, nor any loan, grant, scholarship, recognition
5 award, work-study reimbursement, or other form of financial aid shall be disbursed,
6 under programs authorized by KRS 164.740 to 164.790~~[164.785]~~, to any student
7 who is an inmate or who is incarcerated in a penal institution unless funds have first
8 been provided to all other eligible students who have applied in accordance with the
9 administrative regulations of the authority.
- 10 (2) The Department of Corrections and any person or organization responsible for the
11 supervision or operation of a penal institution shall cooperate with the authority and
12 participating institutions in providing information to them to identify applicants
13 who are inmates at or incarcerated in a penal institution.
- 14 **(3) A person shall not be eligible for any program authorized under KRS 164.740 to**
15 **164.790 if he or she:**
- 16 **(a) Is a violent offender as defined in KRS 439.3401; or**
- 17 **(b) Has been convicted of a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor as**
18 **defined in KRS 17.500.**
- 19 **(4) A person shall not be eligible for any program authorized under KRS 164.740 to**
20 **164.790 while incarcerated in a penal institution for a conviction of:**
- 21 **(a) Aggravated trafficking in a controlled substance under KRS 218A.142;**
- 22 **(b) A second or subsequent offense of trafficking in a controlled substance**
23 **under KRS 218A.1412 or 218A.1413; or**
- 24 **(c) Importing heroin, carfentanil, fentanyl, or fentanyl derivatives under**
25 **218A.1410.**
- 26 **(5) The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority shall promulgate**
27 **administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to implement the**

1 *requirements of this section.*

2 ➔Section 2. KRS 164.7874 is amended to read as follows:

3 As used in KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885:

- 4 (1) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an
5 administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 6 (2) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term, as
7 defined in KRS 158.070;
- 8 (3) "ACT score" means the composite score achieved on the American College Test at
9 a national test site on a national test date or the college admissions examination
10 administered statewide under KRS 158.6453(5)(b)5. if the exam is the ACT, or an
11 equivalent score, as determined by the authority, on the SAT administered by the
12 College Board, Inc.;
- 13 (4) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;
- 14 (5) "Award period" means the fall and spring consecutive academic terms within one
15 (1) academic year;
- 16 (6) "Council" means the Council on Postsecondary Education created under KRS
17 164.011;
- 18 (7) "Eligible high school student" means any person who:
- 19 (a) Is a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States and Kentucky
20 resident;
- 21 (b) Was enrolled after July 1, 1998:
- 22 1. In a Kentucky high school for at least one hundred forty (140) days of
23 the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive
24 director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the
25 KEES curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high
26 school at the end of the academic year;
- 27 2. In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year

- 1 and who:
- 2 a. Was enrolled during the entire academic term;
- 3 b. Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the
- 4 fall academic term; and
- 5 c. Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic
- 6 term of that academic year; or
- 7 3. In the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the
- 8 Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, or in high
- 9 school at a model and practice school under KRS 164.380 while meeting
- 10 the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum
- 11 requirements; **and**
- 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; **and**
- 24 (d) Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; ~~and~~
- 25 ~~and~~
- 26 ~~(e) Is not a convicted felon;~~
- 27 (9) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

- 1 that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in
2 which the student is enrolled;
- 3 (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an
4 eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which
5 the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school
6 or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- 7 (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of
8 Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in
9 Science and Mathematics, a high school of a model and practice school under KRS
10 164.380, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has
11 been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with
12 curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board
13 of Education under KRS 156.160;
- 14 (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship
15 provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;
- 16 (13) "KEES award" means:
- 17 (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for
18 each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as
19 adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and
- 20 (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(e), the KEES supplemental
21 amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;
- 22 (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each
23 academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;
- 24 (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible
25 high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 26 (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet
27 the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined

- 1 in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;
- 2 (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student
3 based on the student's ACT score pursuant to KRS 164.7879;
- 4 (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational
5 excellence scholarship trust fund;
- 6 (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as
7 compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education
8 institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8)
9 academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an
10 undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;
- 11 (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is
12 eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the
13 authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the
14 administration of its programs, and:
- 15 (a) 1. Is publicly operated;
- 16 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at
17 least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program
18 of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as
19 regular students only high school graduates, recipients of a High School
20 Equivalency Diploma, or students transferring from another accredited
21 degree granting institution; or
- 22 3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that
23 offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any
24 institution in the Commonwealth; and
- 25 (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance
26 programs; and
- 27 (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

1 who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution
2 in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,
3 or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.