

1           AN ACT relating to scholarships.

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

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

4    (1) *(a)* Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards shall be based upon an  
5           established base scholarship amount and an eligible high school student's grade  
6           point average. Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the base scholarship  
7           amount for students attaining a grade point average of at least 2.5 for an[the 1998-  
8           1999] academic year shall be as follows:

	GPA	Amount	GPA	Amount
10	2.50	\$125.00	3.30	\$325.00
11	2.60	\$150.00	3.40	\$350.00
12	2.70	\$175.00	3.50	\$375.00
13	2.75	\$187.00	3.60	\$400.00
14	2.80	\$200.00	3.70	\$425.00
15	2.90	\$225.00	3.75	\$437.00
16	3.00	\$250.00	3.80	\$450.00
17	3.10	\$275.00	3.90	\$475.00
18	3.20	\$300.00	4.00	\$500.00
19	3.25	\$312.00		

20           [The authority shall review the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence  
21           scholarship each academic year and may promulgate an administrative regulation to  
22           make adjustments after considering the availability of funds.]

23           *(b) The base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship:*

24           *1. Shall be annually adjusted by the authority based on the most recent*  
25           *percent increase in the nonseasonally adjusted annual average*  
26           *Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City*  
27           *Average, All Items, between the two (2) most recent calendar years*

available, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics  
by administrative regulation, subject to the availability of funds,  
beginning with grade point averages attained in the 2018-2019  
academic year and each academic year thereafter;

**2. May increase, but shall not be decreased;**

**3. Shall be paid at the most recent amount calculated for the academic term in which a student utilizes his or her award:**

4. Shall be provided at the adjusted amount identified in subparagraph 1. of this paragraph for eligible high school students who graduated prior to the 2021-2022 academic year and have received an eligibility extension by the authority pursuant to subsection (5) of Section 3 of this Act; and

5. Shall not be made available for retroactive payments due to an award amount adjustment, pursuant to subparagraph 1. of this paragraph, for prior academic terms.

16 (2) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student the  
17 base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship for each  
18 academic year of high school study in the Kentucky educational excellence  
19 scholarship curriculum that the high school student has attained at least a 2.5  
20 grade point average. The award shall be based upon the eligible high school  
21 student's grade point average at the close of each academic year, including  
22 any[. An award attributable to a past academic year shall not be increased  
23 after the award has been earned by an eligible high school student, regardless  
24 of any] subsequent increases made to the base amount of the Kentucky  
25 educational excellence scholarship[ through the promulgation of an  
26 administrative regulation] by the authority in accordance with subsection  
27 (1)(b) of this section.

1 (b) Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and "high  
2 school" in KRS 164.7874, any high school student who maintains Kentucky  
3 residency and completes the academic courses that are required for a  
4 Kentucky educational excellence scholarship while participating in an  
5 approved educational high school foreign exchange program or participating  
6 in the United States Congressional Page School may apply his or her grade  
7 point average for that academic year toward the base as described in  
8 paragraph (a) of this subsection. The grade point average shall be reported by  
9 the student's Kentucky home high school, based on an official transcript from  
10 the school that the student attended during the out-of-state educational  
11 experience. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations that  
12 describe the approval process for the educational exchange programs that  
13 qualify under this paragraph. The provisions in this paragraph shall likewise  
14 apply to any Kentucky high school student who participated in an approved  
15 educational exchange program or in a Congressional Page School[ since the  
16 1998-99 school year] and maintained his or her Kentucky residency  
17 throughout.

18 (c) 1. Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and  
19 "high school" in KRS 164.7874 and the requirement that a student  
20 graduate from a Kentucky high school, a high school student who  
21 completes the KEEs curriculum while attending an accredited out-of-  
22 state high school or Department of Defense school may apply the grade  
23 point average for any applicable academic year toward the base as  
24 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection and shall also qualify for a  
25 supplemental award under subsection (3) of this section when:  
26 a. His or her custodial parent or guardian is in active service of the  
27 Armed Forces of the United States;



1 graduating from high school before June 30, 1999, and achieving a score of at  
2 least 15 on the American College Test, a supplemental award for the award  
3 period beginning in the fall of 1999, based on the eligible high school  
4 student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high  
5 school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined as follows:

6	ACT	Annual	ACT	Annual
7	Score	Bonus	Score	Bonus
8	15	\$21	22	\$171
9	16	\$43	23	\$193
10	17	\$64	24	\$214
11	18	\$86	25	\$236
12	19	\$107	26	\$257
13	20	\$129	27	\$279
14	21	\$150	28 or above	\$300

15       —Subsequent supplemental awards for eligible high school students graduating  
16           before June 30, 1999, shall be determined in accordance with the provisions  
17           of paragraph (b) of this subsection.

18        (b) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student  
19                upon achievement[ after June 30, 1999,] of an ACT score of at least 15 on the  
20                American College Test a supplemental award based on the eligible high  
21                school student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from  
22                high school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined as  
23                follows:

24	ACT	ACT		
25	Score	Amount	Score	Amount
26	15	\$36	22	\$286
27	16	\$71	23	\$321

1	17	\$107	24	\$357
2	18	\$143	25	\$393
3	19	\$179	26	\$428
4	20	\$214	27	\$464
5	21	\$250	28 and above	\$500

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

10    (b)~~(e)~~    ~~[Beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year, ]~~The authority shall  
11    commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for  
12    Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate as defined in KRS  
13    164.002 to an eligible high school student whose family was eligible for free  
14    or reduced-price lunch for any year during high school enrollment.

15    1.    The supplemental award for AP examination scores are as follows:

- 16       a.    Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of three (3);
- 17       b.    Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of four (4); and
- 18       c.    Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of five (5).

19    2.    The supplemental award for IB examination scores are as follows:

- 20       a.    Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of five (5);
- 21       b.    Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of six (6); and
- 22       c.    Three hundred dollars (\$300) for each score of seven (7).

23    (c)~~(d)~~    ~~[Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, ]~~The authority shall  
24    commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for  
25    Cambridge Advanced International as defined in KRS 164.002 to an eligible  
26    high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced-priced  
27    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".

**(d)(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 High School Equivalency 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.

(e) Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the base amount of the supplemental awards in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection:

1. May be annually adjusted by the authority based on the most recent percent increase in the nonseasonally adjusted annual average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, All Items, between the two (2) most recent calendar years available, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics by administrative regulation, subject to the availability of funds, beginning with examination scores attained in the 2018-2019 academic year and each academic year thereafter;

**2. *May be increased, but shall not be decreased;***

3. Shall be paid at the most recent amount calculated for the academic term in which a student utilizes his or her award;

4. Shall be provided at the adjusted amount identified in subparagraph 1.

of this paragraph for eligible high school students who graduated prior to the 2021-2022 academic year and have received an eligibility extension by the authority pursuant to subsection (5) of Section 3 of this Act; and

5. Shall not be made available for retroactive payments due to an award amount adjustment, pursuant to subparagraph 1. of this paragraph, for prior academic terms.

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

9 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 college admissions examination administered statewide under KRS 158.6453(5)(b)5. if the exam is the ACT, 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 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  
2 the minimum school term unless exempted by the authority's executive  
3 director upon documentation of extreme hardship, while meeting the  
4 KEEs curriculum requirements, and was enrolled in a Kentucky high  
5 school at the end of the academic year;
6. In a Kentucky high school for the fall academic term of the senior year  
7 and who:
  8. a. Was enrolled during the entire academic term;
  9. b. Completed the high school's graduation requirements during the  
10 fall academic term; and
  11. c. Was not enrolled in a secondary school during any other academic  
12 term of that academic year; or
13. 3. In the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the  
14 Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, or in high  
15 school at a model and practice school under KRS 164.380 while meeting  
16 the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum  
17 requirements;

18 (c) Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year  
19 beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a  
20 student eligible under paragraph (b)2.+(b)2. of this subsection; and

21 (d) Is not a convicted felon;

22 (8) "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of  
23 the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating  
24 institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of  
25 admission and tuition assessment, who:

- 26 (a) Earned a KEEs award;
- 27 (b) Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS

1                   164.7881;

2                   (c) Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;

3                   (d) Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and

4                   (e) Is not a convicted felon;

5                   (9) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study

6                   that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in

7                   which the student is enrolled;

8                   (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an

9                   eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which

10                  the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school

11                  or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;

12                  (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of

13                  Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in

14                  Science and Mathematics, a high school of a model and practice school under KRS

15                  164.380, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has

16                  been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with

17                  curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board

18                  of Education under KRS 156.160;

19                  (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship

20                  provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;

21                  (13) "KEES award" means:

22                   (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for

23                   each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as

24                   adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and

25                   (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(d){(e)}, the KEES supplemental

26                   amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;

27                  (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each

1 academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;

2 (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible

3 high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;

4 (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet

5 the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined

6 in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;

7 (17) "KEES supplemental amount" means the amount earned by an eligible student

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

9 (18) "KEES trust fund" means the Wallace G. Wilkinson Kentucky educational

10 excellence scholarship trust fund;

11 (19) "On track to graduate" means the number of cumulative credit hours earned as

12 compared to the number of hours determined by the postsecondary education

13 institution as necessary to complete a bachelor's degree by the end of eight (8)

14 academic terms or ten (10) academic terms if a student is enrolled in an

15 undergraduate program that requires five (5) years of study;

16 (20) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is

17 eligible to participate in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the

18 authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the

19 administration of its programs, and:

20 (a) 1. Is publicly operated;

21 2. Is licensed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has operated for at

22 least ten (10) years, offers an associate or baccalaureate degree program

23 of study not comprised solely of sectarian instruction, and admits as

24 regular students only high school graduates, recipients of a High School

25 Equivalency Diploma, or students transferring from another accredited

26 degree granting institution; or

27 3. Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state institution that

1                   offers a degree program in a field of study that is not offered at any  
2                   institution in the Commonwealth; and

3                   (b) Continues to commit financial resources to student financial assistance  
4                   programs; and

5                   (21) "Part-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study  
6                   who does not meet the full-time student requirements of the participating institution  
7                   in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,  
8                   or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.

9                   ➔Section 3. KRS 164.7881 is amended to read as follows:

10                   (1) Eligible high school students who have graduated from high school and eligible  
11                   postsecondary students who have earned a Kentucky educational excellence  
12                   scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and a supplemental  
13                   award, or a supplemental award only pursuant to KRS 164.7879(3)(d)~~[(e)]~~, shall be  
14                   eligible to receive the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, the Kentucky  
15                   educational excellence scholarship and the supplemental award, or a supplemental  
16                   award only for a maximum of eight (8) academic terms in an undergraduate or other  
17                   postsecondary program of study at a participating institution, except as provided in  
18                   subsections (5) and (6) of this section.

19                   (2) To receive the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship, a Kentucky  
20                   educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award, or a supplemental  
21                   award only, an eligible high school or postsecondary student shall:

22                   (a) Enroll in and attend a participating institution as a full-time student or a part-  
23                   time student; and

24                   (b) Maintain eligibility as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

25                   (3) Eligibility for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship or a Kentucky  
26                   educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award shall terminate upon  
27                   the earlier of:

1       (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the student's graduation from high  
2       school, except as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section; or  
3       (b) The successful completion of an undergraduate or other postsecondary course  
4       of study. However, any student who successfully completes the requirements  
5       for a degree or certification involving a postsecondary course of study that  
6       normally requires less than eight (8) academic terms to complete may  
7       continue to receive the benefits of a Kentucky educational excellence  
8       scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental  
9       award, or a supplemental award only, for a cumulative total of eight (8)  
10      academic terms if the student enrolls as at least a part-time student in a four  
11      (4) year program.

12     (4) (a) The maximum award amount shall be determined by the authority and shall  
13      be adjusted as provided in this subsection. The award amount ultimately  
14      determined to be available to an eligible postsecondary student for an award  
15      period shall be delivered by the authority to the participating institution for  
16      disbursement to the eligible postsecondary student.  
17     (b) The authority shall, by promulgation of administrative regulations, provide for  
18      the proportionate reduction of the maximum award amount for an eligible  
19      postsecondary student for any academic term in which the student is enrolled  
20      on a part-time basis. Each academic term for which any scholarship or  
21      supplemental award funds are accepted by an eligible postsecondary student  
22      shall count as a full academic term, even if the award amount was reduced to  
23      reflect the part-time status of the eligible postsecondary student, except if the  
24      eligible postsecondary student interrupts enrollment during the award period  
25      for any reason specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating  
26      institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at  
27      the end of that award period.

1 (c) 1. An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled full-time in an  
2 undergraduate program of study, in the pharmacy program at the  
3 University of Kentucky, or in a program of study designated as an  
4 equivalent undergraduate program of study by the authority in an  
5 administrative regulation, shall receive the maximum award amount for  
6 the first award period that the student is enrolled in and attending the  
7 program of study.

8 2. To retain the maximum award for the second award period, an eligible  
9 postsecondary student shall have at least a 2.5 grade point average at the  
10 end of the first award period. If the eligible postsecondary student  
11 interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in  
12 subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not  
13 certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the end of  
14 that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall, subject to  
15 paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the maximum award for the  
16 award period in which he or she resumes enrollment.

17 3. To retain the maximum award amount for subsequent award periods, an  
18 eligible postsecondary student shall have:

19 a. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater at the end of  
20 the prior award period. If the eligible postsecondary student  
21 interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason  
22 specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating  
23 institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for  
24 that student at the end of that award period, the eligible  
25 postsecondary student shall, subject to paragraph (b) of this  
26 subsection, retain the same award for the award period in which he  
27 or she resumes enrollment as he or she received in the award

1 period in which enrollment was interrupted; or

2 b. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater but less than

3 3.0 at the end of the prior award period and be on track to

4 graduate. If the eligible postsecondary student interrupts

5 enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in

6 subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does

7 not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the

8 end of that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall,

9 subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the same award

10 for the award period in which he or she resumes enrollment as he

11 or she received in the award period in which enrollment was

12 interrupted.

13 4. Any eligible full-time postsecondary student who maintains a

14 cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 but at least 2.5 but is not

15 on track to graduate at the completion of any award period shall receive

16 a reduction in the maximum award amount equal to fifty percent (50%)

17 of the maximum award amount for the next award period.

18 5. Any eligible postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade

19 point average of less than 2.5 at the completion of any award period

20 shall lose his or her award for the next award period.

21 6. a. Each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the

22 close of each award period the cumulative grade point average of

23 each Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient

24 enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at the participating

25 institution.

26 b. In addition to reporting the grade point average, beginning with

27 the 2010-2011 academic year, each participating institution shall

5           7. Any student who loses eligibility through failure to maintain the  
6           required cumulative grade point average may regain eligibility in a  
7           subsequent award period upon reestablishing at least a 2.5 cumulative  
8           grade point average or its equivalent during a subsequent award period,  
9           as certified by the participating institution.

10 (5) The expiration of a student's eight (8) academic terms and five (5) year eligibility  
11 shall be extended by the authority upon a determination that the student was unable  
12 to enroll for or complete an academic term due to any of the following  
13 circumstances:

14 (a) A serious and extended illness or injury of the student, certified by an  
15 attending physician;

16 (b) The death or serious and extended illness or injury of an immediate family  
17 member of the student, certified by an attending physician, which would  
18 render the student unable to attend classes;

19 (c) Natural disasters that would render a student unable to attend classes; or

20 (d) 1. Active duty status for the student in the United States Armed Forces or  
21 as an officer in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public  
22 Health Service, or active service by the student in the Peace Corps Act  
23 or the Americorps, for the total number of years during which the  
24 student was on active duty status. The number of months served on  
25 active duty status shall be rounded up to the next higher year to  
26 determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.

27 2. A student whose eligibility expired prior to July 15, 2008, due to the

7 (6) An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled at a participating institution in a  
8 five (5) year undergraduate degree program designated in an administrative  
9 regulation promulgated by the authority shall be eligible to receive the Kentucky  
10 educational excellence scholarship, the Kentucky educational excellence  
11 scholarship and the supplemental award, or the supplemental award only for a  
12 maximum of ten (10) academic terms. The expiration of an eligible postsecondary  
13 student's five (5) year eligibility shall be extended to six (6) years for eligible  
14 postsecondary students meeting the requirements of this subsection.

15 (7) Each participating institution shall notify its students of their terms of eligibility.

16 (8) Each eligible high school student who attains a 28 or above on the ACT and a 4.0

17 grade point average for all four (4) years of high school shall be designated as a

18 "Senator Jeff Green Scholar" in honor of the late Senator Jeff Green of Mayfield,

19 Kentucky, First District, and shall be recognized by the high school in a manner

20 consistent with recognition given by the high school to other high levels of

21 academic achievement.

22 ➔ Section 4. KRS 164.7884 is amended to read as follows:

23 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

26 (c) "Approved workforce solutions training program" means a local high-demand

27 work sector training program that is approved by the authority and is offered

1                   by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System through  
2                   consultation with representatives of the local workforce development area and  
3                   the local Kentucky Community and Technical College System campus where  
4                   the program will be offered;

5                   (d) "Eligible college of art and design" means a college that:

6                   1. Qualifies as a tax exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of  
7                   the Internal Revenue Code;

8                   2. Is conditionally or unconditionally licensed by the Council on  
9                   Postsecondary Education;

10                   3. Is a candidate for accreditation by a regional accrediting association  
11                   recognized by the United States Department of Education;

12                   4. Has its main campus physically located in Kentucky;

13                   5. Limits its degree program offerings to the area of fine arts; and

14                   6. Does not qualify as a participating institution as defined in KRS  
15                   164.7874;

16                   (e) "Eligible student" means an eligible high school student who has graduated  
17                   from high school or a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3)(d){(e)};

18                   (f) "Proprietary school" means a school that:

19                   1. Is licensed by the Kentucky Commission on Proprietary Education;

20                   2. Has operated for at least five (5) years;

21                   3. Has its headquarters or main campus physically located in Kentucky;  
22                   and

23                   4. Does not qualify as a participating institution under KRS 164.7874(20);

24                   (g) "Qualified proprietary school program" means a program offered by a  
25                   proprietary school that is in the field of agriculture as defined in KRS 246.010  
26                   or is in one (1) of Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand work sectors as  
27                   determined by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;

1 (h) "Qualified workforce training program" means a program that is in one (1) of  
2 Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand work sectors as determined by the  
3 Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;

4 (i) "Registered apprenticeship program" means an apprenticeship program that:

5 1. Is established in accordance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 343;  
6 2. Requires a minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours of on-the-job work  
7 experience;  
8 3. Requires a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related  
9 instruction for each year of the apprenticeship; and  
10 4. Is approved by the Education and Labor Cabinet;

11 (j) "Related instruction" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010; and

12 (k) "Sponsor" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010.

13 (2) Notwithstanding KRS 164.7881, an eligible student who earned a KEES award  
14 shall be eligible for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship if the student  
15 meets the requirements of this section and is:

16 (a) An apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program;  
17 (b) Enrolled in a qualified workforce training program that has a current  
18 articulation agreement for postsecondary credit hours with a participating  
19 institution;  
20 (c) Enrolled in a qualified proprietary school program;  
21 (d) Enrolled in an approved workforce solutions training program; or  
22 (e) Enrolled in an eligible college of art and design.

23 (3) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an eligible student enrolled in a  
24 registered apprenticeship program or, for the academic year beginning July 1,  
25 2020, an eligible student enrolled in a qualified workforce training program  
26 or, for the academic year beginning July 1, 2023, an eligible student enrolled  
27 in a qualified proprietary school program, an approved workforce solutions

1                   training program, or an eligible college of art and design, may receive  
2                   reimbursement of tuition, books, required tools, and other approved expenses  
3                   required for participation in the program, upon certification by the sponsor,  
4                   school, or college and approval by the authority.

5                   (b) The reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive in an academic  
6                   year shall not exceed the student's KEEs award maximum.

7                   (c) The total reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive under this  
8                   section shall not exceed the student's KEEs award maximum multiplied by  
9                   four (4).

10                  (4) Eligibility for a KEEs scholarship under this section shall terminate upon the earlier  
11                  of:

12                  (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the eligible student's graduation  
13                  from high school or receiving a High School Equivalency Diploma, except as  
14                  provided in KRS 164.7881(5); or

15                  (b) The eligible student's successful completion of the registered apprenticeship  
16                  program, qualified workforce training program, qualified proprietary school  
17                  program, or approved workforce solutions training program.

18                  (5) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the  
19                  procedures for making awards under this section in consultation with the~~Kentucky~~ Education and Labor Cabinet and the Cabinet for~~Kentucky~~ Economic  
20                  Development~~Cabinet~~.

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