

1 AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Education 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, the  
9                   Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, or in high  
10                  school at a model and practice school under KRS 164.380 while meeting  
11                  the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship curriculum  
12                  requirements;  
13                  (c)   Has a grade point average of 2.5 or above at the end of any academic year  
14                  beginning after July 1, 1998, or at the end of the fall academic term for a  
15                  student eligible under paragraph (b) 2. of this subsection; and  
16                  (d)   Is not a convicted felon;  
17                  (8)   "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of  
18                  the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating  
19                  institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of  
20                  admission and tuition assessment, who:  
21                  (a)   Earned a KEES award;  
22                  (b)   Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS  
23                  164.7881;  
24                  (c)   Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;  
25                  (d)   Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; 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:

12 (a) An "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that is eligible to participate in the  
13 federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the authority on terms the  
14 authority deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of its  
15 programs, and:

16 1.[(a)] a.[(1)] Is publicly operated;

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

24 c.[(3)] Is designated by the authority as an approved out-of-state  
25 institution that offers a degree program in a field of study that is  
26 not offered at any institution in the Commonwealth; and

27 2.[(b)] Continues to commit financial resources to student financial

1 assistance programs; or

2 (b) Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the United States Air Force  
3 Academy, the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval  
4 Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, or the United States  
5 Merchant Marine Academy, if the academy executes a contract with the  
6 authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the  
7 administration of its programs; and

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