

1       AN ACT relating to Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and declaring an  
2 emergency.

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

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

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

	GPA	Amount	GPA	Amount
11	<u>2.50</u>	<u>\$125.00</u>	<u>3.30</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>
12	<u>2.60</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>3.40</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>
13	<u>2.70</u>	<u>\$175.00</u>	<u>3.50</u>	<u>\$375.00</u>
14	<u>2.75</u>	<u>\$187.00</u>	<u>3.60</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
15	<u>2.80</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>3.70</u>	<u>\$425.00</u>
16	<u>2.90</u>	<u>\$225.00</u>	<u>3.75</u>	<u>\$437.00</u>
17	<u>3.00</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>3.80</u>	<u>\$450.00</u>
18	<u>3.10</u>	<u>\$275.00</u>	<u>3.90</u>	<u>\$475.00</u>
19	<u>3.20</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>4.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
20	<u>3.25</u>	<u>\$312.00</u>		
21	<u><b>2.50</b></u>	<u><b>\$234</b></u>	<u><b>3.30</b></u>	<u><b>\$608</b></u>
22	<u><b>2.60</b></u>	<u><b>\$280</b></u>	<u><b>3.40</b></u>	<u><b>\$654</b></u>
23	<u><b>2.70</b></u>	<u><b>\$327</b></u>	<u><b>3.50</b></u>	<u><b>\$701</b></u>
24	<u><b>2.75</b></u>	<u><b>\$350</b></u>	<u><b>3.60</b></u>	<u><b>\$748</b></u>
25	<u><b>2.80</b></u>	<u><b>\$374</b></u>	<u><b>3.70</b></u>	<u><b>\$795</b></u>
26	<u><b>2.90</b></u>	<u><b>\$421</b></u>	<u><b>3.75</b></u>	<u><b>\$817</b></u>
27	<u><b>3.00</b></u>	<u><b>\$467</b></u>	<u><b>3.80</b></u>	<u><b>\$841</b></u>

1	<u>3.10</u>	<u>\$514</u>	<u>3.90</u>	<u>\$888</u>
2	<u>3.20</u>	<u>\$561</u>	<u>4.00</u>	<u>\$935</u>
3	<u>3.25</u>	<u>\$583</u>		

4       The authority shall review the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence  
5       scholarship each academic year and may promulgate an administrative regulation to  
6       make adjustments after considering the availability of funds.

7       (2) (a) The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student the  
8       base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence scholarship for each  
9       academic year of high school study in the Kentucky educational excellence  
10       scholarship curriculum that the high school student has attained at least a 2.5  
11       grade point average. The award shall be based upon the eligible high school  
12       student's grade point average at the close of each academic year. An award  
13       attributable to a past academic year shall not be increased after the award has  
14       been earned by an eligible high school student, regardless of any subsequent  
15       increases made to the base amount of the Kentucky educational excellence  
16       scholarship through the promulgation of an administrative regulation by the  
17       authority.

18       (b) Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and "high  
19       school" in KRS 164.7874, any high school student who maintains Kentucky  
20       residency and completes the academic courses that are required for a  
21       Kentucky educational excellence scholarship while participating in an  
22       approved educational high school foreign exchange program or participating  
23       in the United States Congressional Page School may apply his or her grade  
24       point average for that academic year toward the base as described in  
25       paragraph (a) of this subsection. The grade point average shall be reported by  
26       the student's Kentucky home high school, based on an official transcript from  
27       the school that the student attended during the out-of-state educational

experience. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations that describe the approval process for the educational exchange programs that qualify under this paragraph. The provisions in this paragraph shall likewise apply to any Kentucky high school student who participated in an approved educational exchange program or in a Congressional Page School since the 1998-99 school year and maintained his or her Kentucky residency throughout.

- 8 (c) 1. Notwithstanding the definitions of "eligible high school student" and  
9 "high school" in KRS 164.7874 and the requirement that a student  
10 graduate from a Kentucky high school, a high school student who  
11 completes the KEEs curriculum while attending an accredited out-of-  
12 state high school or Department of Defense school may apply the grade  
13 point average for any applicable academic year toward the base as  
14 described in paragraph (a) of this subsection and shall also qualify for a  
15 supplemental award under subsection (3) of this section when:  
16 a. His or her custodial parent or guardian is in active service of the  
17 Armed Forces of the United States;  
18 b. The student attended an accredited out-of-state high school or a  
19 Department of Defense school as a result of the custodial parent's  
20 or guardian's military transfer outside of Kentucky; and  
21 c. The student earned a KEEs base amount at a Kentucky high  
22 school prior to the custodial parent's or guardian's military transfer  
23 outside of Kentucky.  
24 2. The student or parent shall arrange for the out-of-state school to report  
25 the student's grade point average each academic year and the student's  
26 highest ACT score to the authority as required under KRS 164.7885.  
27 The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations implementing

the requirements in this paragraph, including:

- a. The documentation that the parent shall submit to the authority establishing the student's eligibility for the scholarship; and
- b. The assurances that an out-of-state institution shall submit to the authority for submission of the student grade point average.

3. The provisions in this paragraph shall apply to the 2001-2002 school year and thereafter.

(d) ~~{Beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year, }~~ A student who meets the Kentucky core academic standards for high school graduation established in administrative regulation and graduates after completing three (3) years of high school shall receive a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship award equivalent to completing high school in four (4) years. The award shall be determined by dividing the total actual KEEES scholarship earned under subsection (1) of this section by three (3) and multiplying that number by four (4). The resulting number shall be the annual award the student is eligible for under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) (a) ~~{The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student graduating from high school before June 30, 1999, and achieving a score of at least 15 on the American College Test, a supplemental award for the award period beginning in the fall of 1999, based on the eligible high school student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined as follows:~~

ACT	Annual	ACT	Annual
Score	Bonus	Score	Bonus
15	\$21	22	\$171
16	\$43	23	\$193
17	\$64	24	\$214

1	18	\$86	25	\$236
2	19	\$107	26	\$257
3	20	\$129	27	\$279
4	21	\$150	28 or above	\$300

5            ~~Subsequent supplemental awards for eligible high school students graduating~~  
6            ~~before June 30, 1999, shall be determined in accordance with the provisions~~  
7            ~~of paragraph (b) of this subsection.~~

8            (b) }The authority shall commit to provide to each eligible high school student  
9            upon achievement after June 30, 2026~~[1999]~~, of an ACT score of at least 15  
10           on the American College Test a supplemental award based on the eligible  
11           high school student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation  
12           from high school. The amount of the supplemental award shall be determined  
13           as follows:

14	ACT		ACT	
15	Score	Amount	Score	Amount
16	15	\$36	22	\$286
17	16	\$71	23	\$321
18	17	\$107	24	\$357
19	18	\$143	25	\$393
20	19	\$179	26	\$428
21	20	\$214	27	\$464
22	21	\$250	28 and above	\$500]
23	<u>15</u>	<u>\$66</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>\$523</u>
24	<u>16</u>	<u>\$130</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>\$588</u>
25	<u>17</u>	<u>\$196</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>\$653</u>
26	<u>18</u>	<u>\$262</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>\$719</u>
27	<u>19</u>	<u>\$328</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>\$783</u>

1	<u>20</u>	<u>\$392</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>\$849</u>
2	<u>21</u>	<u>\$458</u>	<u>28 and above</u>	<u>\$915</u>

3                   The authority shall review the base amount of the supplemental award{  
4                   ~~beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year and~~} each academic year{  
5                   ~~thereafter~~} and may promulgate an administrative regulation to make  
6                   adjustments after considering the availability of funds.

7                   (b)(e)    1. Beginning with the 2026-2027~~2008-2009~~ academic year, the  
8                    authority shall commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement  
9                    on examinations for Advanced Placement~~,~~ or International  
10                  Baccalaureate, and Cambridge Advanced International, as defined in  
11                  KRS 164.002, to an eligible high school student whose family was  
12                  eligible for free or reduced-price lunch for any year during high school  
13                  enrollment.

14                  2.~~1.~~ The supplemental award amounts for AP examination scores are as  
15                  follows:

- 16                  a. Two hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$277)~~(\$200)~~ for each score  
17                  of three (3);
- 18                  b. Three~~Two~~ hundred forty-seven~~fifty~~ dollars (\$347)~~(\$250)~~ for  
19                  each score of four (4); and
- 20                  c. Four~~Three~~ hundred sixteen dollars (\$416)~~(\$300)~~ for each score  
21                  of five (5).

22                  3.~~2.~~ The supplemental award amounts for IB examination scores are as  
23                  follows:

- 24                  a. Two hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$277)~~(\$200)~~ for each score  
25                  of five (5);
- 26                  b. Three~~Two~~ hundred forty-seven~~fifty~~ dollars (\$347)~~(\$250)~~ for  
27                  each score of six (6); and

- c. Four[Three] hundred sixteen dollars (\$416)[\$300] for each score of seven (7).

**4. The supplemental award amounts for Cambridge Advanced International examination scores are as follows:**

- a. Two hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$277) for each score of "e";
  - b. Three hundred forty-seven dollars (\$347) for each score of "c"  
or "d"; and
  - c. Four hundred sixteen dollars (\$416) for each score of "a\*,"  
"a," or "b".

10 (c) Beginning with the 2013 2014 academic year, the authority shall  
11 commit to provide a supplemental award for achievement on examinations for  
12 Cambridge Advanced International as defined in KRS 164.002 to an eligible  
13 high school student whose family was eligible for free or reduced priced  
14 lunch for any year during high school enrollment. The supplemental award for  
15 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".

19           (e) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the  
20           eligibility criteria and procedures for making a supplemental award to  
21           Kentucky residents who are citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the  
22           United States and who graduate from a nonpublic secondary school not  
23           certified by the Kentucky Board of Education and Kentucky residents who are  
24           citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the United States and who obtain  
25           a High School Equivalency Diploma within five (5) years of their high school  
26           graduating class, and students under subsection (2)(c) of this section who do  
27           not attend an accredited high school.

- 1            ➔Section 2. KRS 164.7882 is amended to read as follows:
- 2        (1) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, a student shall be eligible for a  
3            Kentucky educational excellence scholarship who:
- 4            (a) 1. Received an alternative high school diploma described in KRS  
5            158.140(2)(b) after June 30, 2012; or  
6            2. Attended a Kentucky public high school after June 30, 2008, and is a  
7            student with an intellectual disability as defined in 34 C.F.R. sec.  
8            668.231; and  
9            (b) Enrolls in a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program at a  
10            participating institution located in Kentucky.
- 11        (2) A student enrolled in credit-bearing or non-credit-bearing courses as part of a  
12            comprehensive transition and postsecondary program~~prior to the 2016 2017~~  
13            academic year shall receive:  
14            (a) ~~Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for enrollment in at least six (6) hours in an~~  
15            ~~academic term; and~~  
16            (b) ~~One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for enrollment in less than six (6)~~  
17            ~~hours in an academic term.~~  
18            (3) ~~A student enrolled in credit bearing or non credit bearing courses as part of a~~  
19            ~~comprehensive transition and postsecondary program} beginning with the 2026-~~  
20            ~~2027[2016 2017]~~ academic year shall receive:  
21            (a) **Six hundred thirty-four**~~Five hundred~~ dollars **(\$634)**~~(\$500)~~ for enrollment  
22            in at least six (6) hours in an academic term; and  
23            (b) **Three hundred seventeen**~~Two hundred fifty~~ dollars **(\$317)**~~(\$250)~~ for  
24            enrollment in less than six (6) hours in an academic term.  
25            (3)(4) A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under this section for a maximum  
26            of eight (8) academic terms.  
27            (4)(5) The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the

1       procedures for making awards under this section.

2       ➔Section 3. 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:

- 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, a high school of a model and practice school under KRS  
9       164.380, and any private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has  
10      been certified by the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with  
11      curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board  
12      of Education under KRS 156.160;

13   (12) "KEES" or "Kentucky educational excellence scholarship" means a scholarship  
14      provided under KRS 164.7871 to 164.7885;

15   (13) "KEES award" means:

16       (a) For an eligible high school student, the sum of the KEES base amount for  
17       each academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount, as  
18       adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881; and

19       (b) For a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3){(e)}, the KEES supplemental  
20       amount as adjusted pursuant to KRS 164.7881;

21   (14) "KEES award maximum" means the sum of the KEES base amount earned in each  
22       academic year of high school plus any KEES supplemental amount earned;

23   (15) "KEES base amount" or "base amount" means the amount earned by an eligible  
24       high school student based on the student's GPA pursuant to KRS 164.7879;

25   (16) "KEES curriculum" means five (5) courses of study, except for students who meet  
26       the criteria of subsection (7)(b)2. of this section, in an academic year as determined  
27       in accordance with an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;

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

1       in which the student is enrolled and who is enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours,  
2       or the equivalent for an institution that does not use credit hours.

3       ➔Section 4. KRS 164.7881 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

16           (a) Enroll in and attend a participating institution as a full-time student or a part-  
17           time student; and  
18           (b) Maintain eligibility as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

19       (3) Eligibility for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship or a Kentucky  
20       educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award shall terminate upon  
21       the earlier of:

22           (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the student's graduation from high  
23           school, except as provided in subsection (5) or (6) of this section; or  
24           (b) The successful completion of an undergraduate or other postsecondary course  
25           of study. However, any student who successfully completes the requirements  
26           for a degree or certification involving a postsecondary course of study that  
27           normally requires less than eight (8) academic terms to complete may

1           continue to receive the benefits of a Kentucky educational excellence  
2           scholarship, a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental  
3           award, or a supplemental award only, for a cumulative total of eight (8)  
4           academic terms if the student enrolls as at least a part-time student in a four  
5           (4) year program.

6       (4) (a) The maximum award amount shall be determined by the authority and shall  
7           be adjusted as provided in this subsection. The award amount ultimately  
8           determined to be available to an eligible postsecondary student for an award  
9           period shall be delivered by the authority to the participating institution for  
10           disbursement to the eligible postsecondary student.

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

22       (c) 1. An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled full-time in an  
23           undergraduate program of study, in the pharmacy program at the  
24           University of Kentucky, or in a program of study designated as an  
25           equivalent undergraduate program of study by the authority in an  
26           administrative regulation, shall receive the maximum award amount for  
27           the first award period that the student is enrolled in and attending the

## 1 program of study.

2. To retain the maximum award for the second award period, an eligible  
3 postsecondary student shall have at least a 2.5 grade point average at the  
4 end of the first award period. If the eligible postsecondary student  
5 interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in  
6 subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does not  
7 certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the end of  
8 that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall, subject to  
9 paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the maximum award for the  
10 award period in which he or she resumes enrollment.
  - 11 3. To retain the maximum award amount for subsequent award periods, an  
12 eligible postsecondary student shall have:
    - 13 a. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater at the end of  
14 the prior award period. If the eligible postsecondary student  
15 interrupts enrollment during the award period for any reason  
16 specified in subsection (5) of this section, and the participating  
17 institution does not certify a cumulative grade point average for  
18 that student at the end of that award period, the eligible  
19 postsecondary student shall, subject to paragraph (b) of this  
20 subsection, retain the same award for the award period in which he  
21 or she resumes enrollment as he or she received in the award  
22 period in which enrollment was interrupted; or
    - 23 b. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or greater but less than  
24 3.0 at the end of the prior award period and be on track to  
25 graduate. If the eligible postsecondary student interrupts  
26 enrollment during the award period for any reason specified in  
27 subsection (5) of this section, and the participating institution does

1 not certify a cumulative grade point average for that student at the  
2 end of that award period, the eligible postsecondary student shall,  
3 subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection, retain the same award  
4 for the award period in which he or she resumes enrollment as he  
5 or she received in the award period in which enrollment was  
6 interrupted.

4. Any eligible full-time postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 but at least 2.5 but is not on track to graduate at the completion of any award period shall receive a reduction in the maximum award amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the maximum award amount for the next award period.
  5. Any eligible postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.5 at the completion of any award period shall lose his or her award for the next award period.
  6.
    - a. Each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the close of each award period the cumulative grade point average of each Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at the participating institution.
    - b. In addition to reporting the grade point average, beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year, each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the close of each award period whether a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient who initially enrolled in college in 2009-2010 or thereafter is on track to graduate.
  7. Any student who loses eligibility through failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average may regain eligibility in a

1 subsequent award period upon reestablishing at least a 2.5 cumulative  
2 grade point average or its equivalent during a subsequent award period,  
3 as certified by the participating institution.

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

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

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

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

21           2. A student whose eligibility expired prior to July 15, 2008, due to the  
22           three (3) year time limit on eligibility extensions imposed by this  
23           paragraph prior to July 15, 2008, shall have his or her eligibility  
24           reinstated for the number of years beyond the three (3) years during  
25           which he or she was on active duty status. The number of months served  
26           on active duty status shall be rounded up to the next higher year to  
27           determine the maximum length of eligibility extension allowed.

- 1       (6) An eligible postsecondary student who is enrolled at a participating institution in a  
2       five (5) year undergraduate degree program designated in an administrative  
3       regulation promulgated by the authority shall be eligible to receive the Kentucky  
4       educational excellence scholarship, the Kentucky educational excellence  
5       scholarship and the supplemental award, or the supplemental award only for a  
6       maximum of ten (10) academic terms. The expiration of an eligible postsecondary  
7       student's five (5) year eligibility shall be extended to six (6) years for eligible  
8       postsecondary students meeting the requirements of this subsection.
- 9       (7) Each participating institution shall notify its students of their terms of eligibility.
- 10      (8) Each eligible high school student who attains a 28 or above on the ACT and a 4.0  
11       grade point average for all four (4) years of high school shall be designated as a  
12       "Senator Jeff Green Scholar" in honor of the late Senator Jeff Green of Mayfield,  
13       Kentucky, First District, and shall be recognized by the high school in a manner  
14       consistent with recognition given by the high school to other high levels of  
15       academic achievement.

16       ➔Section 5. KRS 164.7884 is amended to read as follows:

- 17      (1) As used in this section:
- 18       (a) "Academic year" means July 1 through June 30 of each year;
- 19       (b) "Apprentice" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010;
- 20       (c) "Approved workforce solutions training program" means a local high-demand  
21       work sector training program that is approved by the authority and is offered  
22       by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System through  
23       consultation with representatives of the local workforce development area and  
24       the local Kentucky Community and Technical College System campus where  
25       the program will be offered;
- 26       (d) "Eligible college of art and design" means a college that:
- 27       1. Qualifies as a tax exempt organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of

- 1 the Internal Revenue Code:

2 2. Is conditionally or unconditionally licensed by the Council on

3 Postsecondary Education;

4 3. Is a candidate for accreditation by a regional accrediting association

5 recognized by the United States Department of Education;

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

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

8 6. Does not qualify as a participating institution as defined in KRS

9 164.7874;

10 (e) "Eligible student" means an eligible high school student who has graduated

11 from high school or a student eligible under KRS 164.7879(3){(e)};

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

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

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

15 3. Has its headquarters or main campus physically located in Kentucky;

16 and

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

18 (g) "Qualified proprietary school program" means a program offered by a

19 proprietary school that is in the field of agriculture as defined in KRS 246.010

20 or is in one (1) of Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand work sectors as

21 determined by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;

22 (h) "Qualified workforce training program" means a program that is in one (1) of

23 Kentucky's top five (5) high-demand work sectors as determined by the

24 Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board;

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

26 1. Is established in accordance with the requirements of KRS Chapter 343;

27 2. Requires a minimum of two thousand (2,000) hours of on-the-job work

- experience;

  3. Requires a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related instruction for each year of the apprenticeship; and
  4. Is approved by the Education and Labor Cabinet;

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

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

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

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

(3) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an eligible student enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program or, for the academic year beginning July 1, 2020, an eligible student enrolled in a qualified workforce training program or, for the academic year beginning July 1, 2023, an eligible student enrolled in a qualified proprietary school program, an approved workforce solutions training program, or an eligible college of art and design, may receive reimbursement of tuition, books, required tools, and other approved expenses required for participation in the program, upon certification by the sponsor, school, or college and approval by the authority.

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

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

4 (4) Eligibility for a KEEs scholarship under this section shall terminate upon the earlier  
5 of:  
6 (a) The expiration of five (5) years following the eligible student's graduation  
7 from high school or receiving a High School Equivalency Diploma, except as  
8 provided in KRS 164.7881(5); or  
9 (b) The eligible student's successful completion of the registered apprenticeship  
10 program, qualified workforce training program, qualified proprietary school  
11 program, or approved workforce solutions training program.

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

16 ➔Section 6. KRS 164.7885 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) Not later than ~~August 1, 1999, and each~~ June 30 of each year~~thereafter~~, each  
18 Kentucky high school shall submit to the authority, a compiled list of all high  
19 school students during the academic year. A high school shall report the grade point  
20 average of an eligible high school student pursuant to KRS 164.7874 by January 15  
21 following the end of the fall academic term in which the student completed the high  
22 school graduation requirements. The list shall identify the high school and shall  
23 contain each high school student's name, Social Security number, address, grade  
24 point average for the academic year, expected or actual graduation date, highest  
25 ACT score, family eligibility status for free or reduced-price lunch, and each AP,  
26 Cambridge Advanced International, or IB examination score. The Gatton Academy  
27 of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in

1        Science and Mathematics, and the high school of a model and practice school under  
2        KRS 164.380 shall report the data on its students to the authority. The list need not  
3        contain the ACT, AP, Cambridge Advanced International, or IB if the authority  
4        receives the scores directly from the testing services. The authority shall notify each  
5        eligible high school student of his or her Kentucky educational excellence  
6        scholarship award earned each academic year. The authority shall determine the  
7        final Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental award based  
8        upon the actual final grade point average, highest ACT score, and qualifying AP,  
9        Cambridge Advanced International, or IB scores and shall notify each eligible  
10        twelfth-grade high school student of the final determination. The authority shall  
11        make available a list of eligible high school and postsecondary students to  
12        participating institutions.

13        (2) The authority shall provide data access only to the Kentucky Longitudinal Data  
14        System and to those participating institutions that have either received an admission  
15        application from an eligible high school or postsecondary student or have been  
16        listed by the eligible high school or postsecondary student on the Free Application  
17        For Federal Student Aid.

18        (3) For each eligible postsecondary student enrolling in a participating institution~~after~~  
19        ~~July 1, 1999~~, the participating institution shall verify to the authority:

20            (a) The student's initial eligibility for a Kentucky educational excellence  
21            scholarship, Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and supplemental  
22            award, or supplemental award only pursuant to KRS 164.7879(3)~~(d)~~ through  
23            the comprehensive list compiled by the authority or an alternative source  
24            satisfactory to the authority;

25            (b) The student's highest ACT score attained by the date of graduation from high  
26            school, provided that the participating institution need not report the ACT  
27            score if the authority receives the ACT score directly from the testing

- 1 services;

2 (c) The eligible postsecondary student's full-time or part-time enrollment status at

3 the beginning of each academic term; and

4 (d) The eligible postsecondary student's cumulative grade point average after the

5 completion of each award period.

6 (4) Each participating institution shall submit to the authority a report, in a form

7 satisfactory to the authority, of all eligible postsecondary students enrolled for that

8 academic term. Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and supplemental

9 awards shall be disbursed by the authority to each eligible postsecondary student

10 attending a participating institution during the academic term within thirty (30) days

11 after receiving a satisfactory report.

12 (5) The Kentucky educational excellence scholarship and the supplemental award shall

13 not be reduced, except as provided in KRS 164.7881(4).

14 (6) Kentucky educational excellence scholarships and supplemental awards shall not be

15 awarded or disbursed to any eligible postsecondary students who are:

16 (a) In default on any loan under Title IV of the federal act; or

17 (b) Liable for any amounts that exceed annual or aggregate limits on any loan

18 under Title IV of the federal act; or

19 (c) Liable for overpayment of any grant or loan under Title IV of the federal act;

20 or

21 (d) In default on any obligation to the authority under any programs administered

22 by the authority until financial obligations to the authority are satisfied, except

23 that ineligibility may be waived by the authority for cause.

24 (7) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 164.753, the authority may promulgate

25 administrative regulations for the administration of Kentucky educational

26 excellence scholarships and supplemental awards under the provisions of KRS

27 164.7871 to 164.7885 and KRS 164.7889.

1        ➔Section 7.    Whereas providing assistance to Kentucky students for higher  
2    education is critical for the continuing knowledge of its citizens an emergency is declared  
3    to exist, and this Act takes effect July 1, 2026.