

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

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

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

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

GPA	Amount	GPA	Amount
[2.50	\$125.00	3.30	\$325.00
2.60	\$150.00	3.40	\$350.00
2.70	\$175.00	3.50	\$375.00
2.75	\$187.00	3.60	\$400.00
2.80	\$200.00	3.70	\$425.00
2.90	\$225.00	3.75	\$437.00
3.00	\$250.00	3.80	\$450.00
3.10	\$275.00	3.90	\$475.00
3.20	\$300.00	4.00	\$500.00
3.25	\$312.00]		
<u>2.50</u>	<u>\$234</u>	<u>3.30</u>	<u>\$608</u>
<u>2.60</u>	<u>\$280</u>	<u>3.40</u>	<u>\$654</u>
<u>2.70</u>	<u>\$327</u>	<u>3.50</u>	<u>\$701</u>
<u>2.75</u>	<u>\$350</u>	<u>3.60</u>	<u>\$748</u>
<u>2.80</u>	<u>\$374</u>	<u>3.70</u>	<u>\$795</u>
<u>2.90</u>	<u>\$421</u>	<u>3.75</u>	<u>\$817</u>
<u>3.00</u>	<u>\$467</u>	<u>3.80</u>	<u>\$841</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

1 experience. The authority shall promulgate administrative regulations that
2 describe the approval process for the educational exchange programs that
3 qualify under this paragraph. The provisions in this paragraph shall likewise
4 apply to any Kentucky high school student who participated in an approved
5 educational exchange program or in a Congressional Page School since the
6 1998-99 school year and maintained his or her Kentucky residency
7 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

1 the requirements in this paragraph, including:

2 a. The documentation that the parent shall submit to the authority
3 establishing the student's eligibility for the scholarship; and

4 b. The assurances that an out-of-state institution shall submit to the
5 authority for submission of the student grade point average.

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

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

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

23	_____	ACT	_____	Annual	_____	ACT	_____	Annual
24	_____	Score	_____	Bonus	_____	Score	_____	Bonus
25	_____	15	_____	\$21	_____	22	_____	\$171
26	_____	16	_____	\$43	_____	23	_____	\$193
27	_____	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~~beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year and~~ each academic year~~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

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

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

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

10 ~~(c)(d)~~ 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:

- 16 ~~1.~~ Two hundred dollars (\$200) for each score of "e";
17 ~~2.~~ Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each score of "c" or "d"; and
18 ~~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.

(2) A student enrolled in credit-bearing or non-credit-bearing courses as part of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program ~~prior to the 2016-2017 academic year shall receive:~~

~~(a) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for enrollment in at least six (6) hours in an~~
~~academic term; and~~

~~(b) One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for enrollment in less than six (6)~~
~~hours in an academic term.~~

(3) ~~A student enrolled in credit bearing or non credit bearing courses as part of a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program]~~ beginning with the **2026-2027**~~[2016-2017]~~ academic year shall receive:

(a) ~~Six hundred thirty-four~~ [Five hundred] dollars ~~(\$634)~~ [(\$500)] for enrollment in at least six (6) hours in an academic term; and

(b) Three hundred seventeen~~[Two hundred fifty]~~ dollars (\$317)~~[(\$250)]~~ for enrollment in less than six (6) hours in an academic term.

~~(3)~~⁽⁴⁾ A student shall be eligible for a scholarship under this section for a maximum 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:
- 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;
- 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)~~1~~2. of this subsection; and
- 15 (d) Is not a convicted felon;
- 16 (8) "Eligible postsecondary student" means a citizen, national, or permanent resident of
- 17 the United States and Kentucky resident, as determined by the participating
- 18 institution in accordance with criteria established by the council for the purposes of
- 19 admission and tuition assessment, who:
- 20 (a) Earned a KEES award;
- 21 (b) Has the required postsecondary GPA and credit hours required under KRS
- 22 164.7881;
- 23 (c) Has remaining semesters of eligibility under KRS 164.7881;
- 24 (d) Is enrolled in a participating institution as a part-time or full-time student; and
- 25 (e) Is not a convicted felon;
- 26 (9) "Full-time student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary program of study
- 27 that meets the full-time student requirements of the participating institution in

- 1 which the student is enrolled;
- 2 (10) "Grade point average" or "GPA" means the grade point average earned by an
3 eligible student and reported by the high school or participating institution in which
4 the student was enrolled based on a scale of 4.0 or its equivalent if the high school
5 or participating institution that the student attends does not use the 4.0 grade scale;
- 6 (11) "High school" means any Kentucky public high school, the Gatton Academy of
7 Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Craft Academy for Excellence in
8 Science and Mathematics, 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 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.

7 4. Any eligible full-time postsecondary student who maintains a
8 cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0 but at least 2.5 but is not
9 on track to graduate at the completion of any award period shall receive
10 a reduction in the maximum award amount equal to fifty percent (50%)
11 of the maximum award amount for the next award period.

12 5. Any eligible postsecondary student who maintains a cumulative grade
13 point average of less than 2.5 at the completion of any award period
14 shall lose his or her award for the next award period.

15 6. a. Each participating institution shall certify to the authority at the
16 close of each award period the cumulative grade point average of
17 each Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient
18 enrolled as a full-time or part-time student at the participating
19 institution.

20 b. In addition to reporting the grade point average, beginning with
21 the 2010-2011 academic year, each participating institution shall
22 certify to the authority at the close of each award period whether a
23 Kentucky educational excellence scholarship recipient who
24 initially enrolled in college in 2009-2010 or thereafter is on track
25 to graduate.

26 7. Any student who loses eligibility through failure to maintain the
27 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:

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

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

- 1 experience;
- 2 3. Requires a minimum of one hundred forty-four (144) hours of related
- 3 instruction for each year of the apprenticeship; and
- 4 4. Is approved by the Education and Labor Cabinet;
- 5 (j) "Related instruction" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010; and
- 6 (k) "Sponsor" has the same meaning as in KRS 343.010.
- 7 (2) Notwithstanding KRS 164.7881, an eligible student who earned a KEES award
- 8 shall be eligible for a Kentucky educational excellence scholarship if the student
- 9 meets the requirements of this section and is:
- 10 (a) An apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program;
- 11 (b) Enrolled in a qualified workforce training program that has a current
- 12 articulation agreement for postsecondary credit hours with a participating
- 13 institution;
- 14 (c) Enrolled in a qualified proprietary school program;
- 15 (d) Enrolled in an approved workforce solutions training program; or
- 16 (e) Enrolled in an eligible college of art and design.
- 17 (3) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, an eligible student enrolled in a
- 18 registered apprenticeship program or, for the academic year beginning July 1,
- 19 2020, an eligible student enrolled in a qualified workforce training program
- 20 or, for the academic year beginning July 1, 2023, an eligible student enrolled
- 21 in a qualified proprietary school program, an approved workforce solutions
- 22 training program, or an eligible college of art and design, may receive
- 23 reimbursement of tuition, books, required tools, and other approved expenses
- 24 required for participation in the program, upon certification by the sponsor,
- 25 school, or college and approval by the authority.
- 26 (b) The reimbursement amount an eligible student may receive in an academic
- 27 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.