

**2017-2018
ANNUAL REPORT**

**WORK
READY KY**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Annual Report
(Pursuant to Executive Order 2017-434)

House Bill 303, passed during the 2016 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, appropriated funding for a new Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship (WRKS) program. Executive Order 2017-434 was issued on June 30, 2017 to establish the operating framework of the program.

WRKS was created to increase workforce participation rates by expanding the skilled, competitive workforce in sectors of the Kentucky economy that are in highest need. The high-demand workforce sectors for the 2017-2018 year were Advanced Manufacturing, Business and Information Technology, Construction, Healthcare, and Transportation and Logistics. WRKS provides Kentuckians who have not yet earned an associate degree or higher affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate or diploma in these areas.

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) administers the program in collaboration with the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. The WRKS amount is designed to cover the difference between an eligible student’s tuition minus federal and state student aid, not to exceed the in-state tuition and fees rate for full-time enrollment at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

Table 1 summarizes WRKS program activity for the 2017-2018 academic year, the first year of the WRKS program defined by Executive Order 2017-434.

Table 1.
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Annual Summary
2017-2018

Total Disbursed	Unduplicated Students	Credit Hours Earned
\$ 2,880,881	1,194	25,702

WRKS utilization was uneven between the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 academic terms (Table 2). The number of eligible recipients increased by nearly 24% between the fall and spring terms while the amounts disbursed increased by almost 20%. These rates of increase were expected for a newly implemented financial aid program. Utilization rates typically rise as new programs become more widely known among the student population and college and university financial aid administrative professionals.

Table 2.
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Academic Term
2017-2018

	Total Amount Disbursed	Total Students (Duplicated)	Credit Hours Earned
Fall Term	\$ 1,287,297	762	14,669
Spring Term	\$ 1,593,584	916	11,033

Approximately \$2.28 million in WRKS disbursements (79.1%) were made to Kentucky public two-year institutions during the 2017-2018 academic year, which are the Kentucky Community and Technical College System institutions (Table 3). Approximately \$580,000 in program disbursements (20.1%) was made to Kentucky private, not-for-profit colleges and universities on behalf of 17.3% of program recipients. Kentucky’s public four-year universities and all private, for-profit (proprietary) colleges and schools received less than 1% of all WRKS disbursements for 1.2% of WRKS students. Appendix 2 contains details by specific institution.

Table 3.
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Postsecondary Sector
 2017-2018

	Total Applicants	Undupl Students	Year Total Disbursed	Year Total Credit Hours	Fall 2017 Disbursed	Fall 2017 Credit Hours	Spring 2018 Disbursed	Spring 2018 Credit Hours
TOTAL All Institutions	6,896	1,194	\$2,880,881	25,702	\$1,287,297	14,669	\$ 1,593,584	11,033
Public 4-year	872	12	\$ 19,898	204	\$ 7,994	87	\$ 11,904	117
Public 2-year	5,502	974	\$2,279,657	21,758	\$1,025,091	12,566	\$ 1,254,566	9,192
Private 4-year	399	206	\$ 579,141	3,708	\$ 253,574	2,004	\$ 325,567	1,704
Proprietary	123	2	\$ 2,185	32	\$ 638	12	\$ 1,547	20

Students' dependency status¹ is strongly associated with the number of work ready credits earned. The WRKS scholarship is open to both dependent and independent students. Physical and temporal proximity to the postsecondary education system likely provided dependent students relatively more information about the WRKS program at least initially, resulting in a 10% greater utilization rate during the fall term (Table 4; 53.8% to 46.2%).

Table 4.
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Academic Term and Dependency Status
 2017-2018

	Disbursed	Students	Credit Hours Earned
Fall Term	\$ 1,287,297	762	14,669
Dependent	692,349	411	9,164
Percent	53.8%	53.9%	62.5%
Independent	594,948	351	5,505
Percent	46.2%	46.1%	37.5%
Spring Term	\$ 1,593,584	916	11,033
Dependent	793,611	464	6,040
Percent	49.8%	50.7%	54.7%
Independent	799,973	452	4,993
Percent	50.2%	49.3%	45.3%
Year Total	\$ 2,880,881	1,194	25,702
Dependent	1,485,960	596	15,204
Independent	1,394,921	598	10,498

Independent students appear to have had more equivalent access to WRKS information in sufficient time to enroll during the spring term of academic year 2017-2018, where the difference between dependent and independent student utilization was less than 2% (Table 4; 50.7% to 49.3%). The total amount of WRKS funds disbursed mirrored these rates almost identically.

¹ "Dependent" students are those less than 25 years of age and commonly perceived as "traditional" college students pursuing postsecondary education immediately or within a short time, after high school graduation. "Independent" students are 25 years of age or older and are often characterized as "returning adult students."

WRKS utilization by workforce sector was greatest in the Healthcare sector for the 2017-2018 year, followed by Business and IT and Advanced Manufacturing (Table 5). The relative distribution between sectors was expected given the academic program offerings that were in place when the WRKS program was created near the start of the academic year.

These statistics, in total, demonstrate expected utilization rates for a new student aid program.

Table 5.
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Summary by Workforce Sector
2017-2018

SECTOR	Program	Total Applications	Total Unduplicated Students	Fall 2017 Disbursed	Fall 2017 Credit Hours	Spring 2018 Disbursed	Spring 2018 Credit Hours
TOTAL - All Sectors		6,896	1,194	\$ 1,287,297	14,669	\$ 1,593,584	11,033
Advanced Manufacturing							
		951	249	\$ 290,964	3,914	\$ 356,510	2,763
	Certificate	457	71	\$ 100,444	1,327	\$ 93,861	714
	Diploma	494	178	\$ 190,520	2,587	\$ 262,649	2,049
Business and IT							
		1,970	300	\$ 283,575	3,175	\$ 356,004	2,435
	Certificate	1,737	185	\$ 170,878	1,881	\$ 212,709	1,479
	Diploma	233	115	\$ 112,697	1,294	\$ 143,295	956
Construction							
		336	97	\$ 108,014	1,331	\$ 147,854	1,137
	Certificate	118	25	\$ 24,085	306	\$ 37,263	286
	Diploma	218	72	\$ 83,929	1,025	\$ 110,591	851
Healthcare							
		3,375	476	\$ 523,632	5,085	\$ 633,401	3,930
	Certificate	2,179	396	\$ 443,130	4,191	\$ 535,768	3,209
	Diploma	1,186	80	\$ 80,502	894	\$ 97,633	721
Transportation/Logistics							
		264	77	\$ 81,112	1,164	\$ 99,815	768
	Certificate	154	37	\$ 34,641	505	\$ 43,182	327
	Diploma	110	40	\$ 46,471	659	\$ 56,633	441

Appendix 1.

**Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship
Academic Year 2017-2018**

Data date: 23Aug2018

	FALL 2017	SPRING 2018	TOTAL Unduplicated Students
Applications Received	~	~	6,896
Awarded WRKS	2,929	2,921	3,023
Awarded Amount	\$5,014,319	\$5,058,243	\$10,072,562
Disbursed WRKS Scholarship	762	916	1,194
Disbursed Amount	\$1,287,297	\$1,593,584	\$2,880,881
Credit Hours Earned	14,669	11,033	25,702

Appendix 2.

Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship

Academic Year 2017-2018

Data date: 23Aug2018

Sector	Institution	Applicants	Students Disbursed (Unduplicated)	Fall 2017 Disbursed	Fall 2017 Credit Hours	Spring 2018 Disbursed	Spring 2018 Credit Hours
Public 4-year Institutions							
	Eastern KY Univ.	186	1	\$ 0	0	\$ 2,040	12
	Univ. of Kentucky	301	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0	0
	Western KY Univ.	385	11	\$ 7,994	87	\$ 9,864	105
Public 2-year Institutions							
	KCTCS - Ashland	242	44	\$ 63,774	830	\$ 74,977	574
	KCTCS - Big Sandy	208	27	\$ 44,609	533	\$ 35,063	269
	KCTCS - Bluegrass	707	67	\$ 57,112	667	\$ 101,625	696
	KCTCS - Elizabethtown	631	182	\$ 150,594	1,718	\$ 236,561	1,700
	KCTCS - Gateway	461	139	\$ 164,825	1,735	\$ 161,535	1,072
	KCTCS - Hazard	207	34	\$ 35,138	420	\$ 29,298	217
	KCTCS - Henderson	72	5	\$ 5,042	30	\$ 2,276	19
	KCTCS - Hopkinsville	126	11	\$ 17,991	222	\$ 17,557	131
	KCTCS - Jefferson	725	76	\$ 81,167	1,270	\$ 99,456	731
	KCTCS - Madisonville	164	23	\$ 17,229	171	\$ 26,477	181
	KCTCS - Maysville	339	47	\$ 56,329	704	\$ 63,720	488
	KCTCS - Owensboro	329	170	\$ 192,727	2,488	\$ 215,878	1,645
	KCTCS - Somerset	448	71	\$ 64,723	828	\$ 75,618	625
	KCTCS - Southcentral	369	39	\$ 30,467	372	\$ 53,492	412
	KCTCS - Southeast	205	17	\$ 25,811	320	\$ 23,235	165
	KCTCS - West KY	269	21	\$ 17,553	258	\$ 37,798	267
Private 4-year Institutions							
	Campbellsville Univ.	399	206	\$ 253,574	2,004	\$ 325,567	1,704
Proprietary Institutions							
	Sullivan University	123	2	\$ 638	12	\$ 1,547	20