

# Counselor Connection

## February 2021



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## Students, parents should take FAFSA verification seriously

The federal government requires many students who submit the FAFSA to verify the information they submitted. In many cases, their parents will also have to provide information.

The students requiring verification are chosen by the U.S. Department of Education.

Students and parents need to take the process seriously. Students chosen for verification must complete the process before they can receive their financial aid. As soon as they are contacted, they should provide any information that is required. Putting it off will only lead to frustration if the process isn't finished when classes are ready to start.

Colleges may do the verification themselves, or they may contract with an agency to handle the process. KHEAA provides verification services to over 30 schools, including the University of Montevallo and the University of West Alabama.



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KHEAA publishes the *Counselor Connection* to share information about student financial aid, college preparation and college planning. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send them to [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com).

## KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help in March via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Some sessions will include Kentucky-specific as well as general information. The schedule is:

- **March 2:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Knowing Your Strengths, **Facebook**
- **March 3:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Silver Lining Your Year, **Twitter**
- **March 4:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Stress Management Toolbox, **Instagram**
- **March 9:** Best Practices: College Access, **Facebook**
- **March 10:** Best Practices: Financial Literacy, **Twitter**
- **March 11:** Best Practices: Organizing Yourself in 2021, **Instagram**
- **March 16:** Pot of Gold: Scholarship Party with KHEAA's Lucky Charms, **Facebook**
- **March 17:** Pot of Gold: Grants, **Twitter**
- **March 18:** Pot of Gold: Loans, **Instagram**
- **March 23:** KHEAA Spotlight: Advantage Education Loan, **Facebook**
- **March 24:** KHEAA Spotlight: [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com), **Twitter**
- **March 30:** Myth Busting: Financial Aid, **Facebook**
- **March 31:** Myth Busting: College Life, **Twitter**
- **April 1:** Myth Busting: Admissions, **Instagram**

All sessions begin at 2 p.m. Central.

The links are:

[www.facebook.com/KHEAA/](http://www.facebook.com/KHEAA/)

[www.twitter.com/KHEAA](http://www.twitter.com/KHEAA)

[www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en](http://www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en)



## KHEAA to hold webinars about student financial aid

During the spring semester, KHEAA Outreach is offering a series of webinars about financial aid and financial literacy. Some webinars will contain Kentucky-specific information. The schedule is:

- ***It's Money, Baby!: Your Guide to Financial Literacy***, Thursday, April 1, 6 p.m.
- ***Getting In: High School Juniors' Guide to College***, Thursday, April 15, 6 p.m.
- ***Surviving College: A Guide to Persisting to Graduation***, Thursday, May 6, 6 p.m.

All times listed are Central time.

To register, visit <https://kygoestocollege.com/>. That page also has links to videos of previous webinars.

# Scholarship Spotlight

## Alabama Home Builders Foundation

### Alabama Home Builders Foundation Scholarship

**Eligibility:** The applicant must:

- be a resident of Alabama.
- be enrolling in or attending, an accredited junior college, technical school, or university in Alabama.
- be enrolled in a residential construction-related curriculum

In addition, the applicant must submit:

- an application.
- applicant's most recent college or high school transcript.
- at least 1 letter of recommendation from a member of the Home Builders Association of Alabama, teacher, or supervisor. The letter must be signed and on letterhead if it is available.
- proof of residency.

**Number:** 1

**Award:** Varies

**Deadline:** Received or postmarked by March 15

**Contact:** Alabama Home Builders Foundation, P.O. Box 241305, Montgomery AL 36124; 334-834-3006; [louisebrown@hbaa.org](mailto:louisebrown@hbaa.org); <https://ahbfoundation.org>



## SAT drops subject tests, optional essay

The College Board, which administers the SAT college entrance exam, will no longer offer subject tests to students in the United States. Students in the U.S. who have signed up for the subject tests this spring will automatically have their registrations canceled and their fees refunded.

In addition, the board will no longer offer the optional essay except in states that require it as part of their accountability standards.

Students can take the SAT with the essay through the June 5 SAT administration. Students who have registered for the essay this spring can cancel that portion at any time, free of charge.

As announced last year, the board will continue to work on developing a digital version of the SAT.

## Online security awareness offers protection from cyber thieves

Students need to be aware of the financial dangers that accompany their social media activity.

Each new social media platform — Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and whatever is on the way — presents crooks with the opportunity to defraud Alabamians. Students should be especially aware of any unsolicited messages asking them to open a file or click on a link.

Criminals exploit vulnerabilities in social media software and hope that users won't realize that they're being phished. One of the most common ways is to send a link to what appears to be a legitimate website. Never click on a link without making sure that it's real by checking with the company it is supposedly from.

People using social media should also be wary of any kind of online survey that asks them to fill out a long list of information, such as their favorite car or where they were born. The answers can give scam artists knowledge that will help them steal someone's identity.