



## KEES training dates for coordinators, counselors set

The annual, free KEES training will be held in April. The training will be done through Go To Live Meeting, which lets you participate from your home or office.

It will include an in-depth review of rules and regulations related to the KEES program, submitting student records and year-end files via [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com), KEES eligibility criteria, the AP/IB/CAI bonus, dual credits and more.

High school counselors and KEES district coordinators across the Commonwealth are encouraged to attend. The same material will be covered in each session, which is expected to last about two hours. The dates and times are:

- Tuesday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Eastern time
- Wednesday, April 29, 10 a.m. Eastern time
- Thursday, April 30, at 10 a.m. Eastern time

### In this edition

KEES GPA Calculation	2
Social media outreach	3
KHEAA essay contest	3
COVID-19 Response	4
College course help	5
Scholarship Spotlight	5
College Circuit	6

In order to receive the meeting invitation via email, please send the following information for each participant to [kees@kheaa.com](mailto:kees@kheaa.com):

- Name
- Preferred training date
- Email address
- High school or district you represent
- Phone number
- EILA certificate preference — needed or not

Your email must be received by 4 p.m. Eastern time the day before the training to be sent the meeting invitation.

We hope to keep to the schedule above, but it may change during the COVID-19 crisis. We will keep you updated as to any changes. Call 800.928.8926 or email [kees@kheaa.com](mailto:kees@kheaa.com).

## Pass/fail grades not included in KEES GPA calculation

The lengthy shutdown because of the coronavirus pandemic has caused some schools and districts to consider using pass/fail grades for spring classes. This, in turn, has raised questions about how GPAs for KEES awards will be calculated.

Only courses receiving regular letter grades (A, B, C, D and F) are used to calculate a KEES GPA. However, if a school or district uses pass/fail for the spring term, a yearly KEES GPA can be calculated using letter grades and credit earned for the part of the year that has concluded. Courses receiving pass/fail grades cannot be used in the KEES GPA calculation.

All coursework completed during a year can count toward the KEES curriculum requirement, regardless of the grading policy applied. A student must earn at least 5 credits per year to satisfy the curriculum requirement.

KEES awards become final when a student graduates from high school. Therefore, students who will graduate this spring must complete their coursework so their grades will be final when their KEES GPA is calculated and reported for the 2019–2020 year.

KHEAA will allow KEES GPAs to be recalculated for this year's freshmen, sophomores and juniors if they retake a pass/fail course next fall and receive a regular letter grade.

Schools and districts are asked to notify KHEAA no later than June 30 if they plan to use pass/fail grades this spring and/or if they plan to let undergraduate students retake pass/fail classes next fall so their 2019–2020 grade can be replaced and KEES GPA recalculated.



### Dual credit

KHEAA has been told colleges will issue regular letter grades for dual credit. Since the letter grade assigned by the college is the grade the high school uses, all dual credit students should have letter grades to include in their yearly KEES GPA calculation.

Grades for dual credit courses are weighted for KEES purposes. This means a student who earns a “B” in a dual credit class will receive an additional quality point, making the grade the equivalent of an “A.”

### Dual credit scholarships

Some districts have asked about impact to the Dual Credit and Work Ready Dual Credit scholarship programs. From a grading perspective, there should be no impact as the institutions are issuing letter grades for dual credit coursework.

## KHEAA offers social media outreach in April and May

KHEAA is offering free live streaming and real-time social media outreach while schools are shut down.

Outreach counselors will be live to provide help to middle school and high school students and parents via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in April and at least through mid-May. The schedule is:

**April 16**, Verification: Learn tips for FAFSA verification, seniors, Instagram

**April 21**, Reading Your Award Letter, juniors and seniors, Facebook

**April 22**, Tips for Being Financially Lit, Twitter

**April 23**, Essay Writing for Scholarships and Admissions, juniors and seniors, Instagram

**April 28**, Choosing a Degree: Certificate, associate's, certificates bachelor's; freshmen through seniors, Facebook

**April 29**, The College Job Experience, Twitter

**April 30**, Work Ready FAQ, all about KHEAA's Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, juniors and seniors, Instagram

**May 5**, Dual Credit, AP and Honors, eighth grade through seniors, Facebook

**May 6**, The Impact of College and Cultural Shock, Twitter

**May 7**, Transition from Middle School to High School, middle school students and families, Instagram

**May 12**, Tips for Middle School Students and Families/Q&A, Facebook

**May 14**, Summer Melt, seniors, Instagram

**May 19**, KEES Money Kahoot, an interactive game for middle school students and families, Facebook

All sessions begin at 2 p.m. Central time, 3 p.m. Eastern time.

The links are:

<https://www.facebook.com/KHEAA/>

<https://twitter.com/KHEAA>

<https://www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en>



## KHEAA essay contest deadline is May 31

May 31 is the deadline for students who will be high school juniors next fall to submit essays in KHEAA's annual scholarship essay contest. The school must participate in the KEES program.

To enter, the student must submit an essay about one of these subjects:

- How I will inspire others to do better.
- How education makes a stronger community.

The essay must be no more than 200 words long and cannot mention the student's name, school, county or community. The essay topic must be shown at the top of the page. The student's name, address and high school must be listed at the bottom of the essay. For complete rules, visit [www.kheaa.com/website/contest/rules](http://www.kheaa.com/website/contest/rules).

Photos from the winning school will be used in KHEAA publications and on KHEAA websites.

To enter, mail the essay to KHEAA Publications, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; email it to [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com); or fax it to (502) 696-7574. The deadline is May 31. **KHEAA cannot accept entries sent by file-sharing apps.**



## KHEAA commits to helping during COVID-19 situation

KHEAA is here to help make sense of the changes caused by COVID-19. Our commitment to you remains strong, but our delivery methods have been altered.

KHEAA remains committed to helping you with your educational questions. Following guidelines from Governor Andy Beshear and the Centers for Disease Control, we are adapting the way we do our day-to-day business to protect the health and safety of students, families, partners and staff.

### Changes

Outreach counselors are no longer doing in-person presentations or visits. However, during school closings, please contact your regional outreach counselor for assistance.

- Please visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) to find outreach counselors' contact information. This is for students, parents, school counselors or anyone else who needs guidance.
- Counselors are conducting online presentations if a teacher or others who are still working with students or clients have a need. Please contact our staff for specifics and/or to schedule a presentation. The presentation guide is online. Presentations can be customized to fit your needs.

Follow KHEAA's Facebook and Twitter accounts and the KHEAA Outreach Instagram account to engage with staff. Through April and May, all Facebook Live videos will be Tuesdays, all Twitter Chats will be Wednesdays and all Instagram Live videos will be Thursdays. All events start at 2 p.m. Central/3 p.m. Eastern. Please visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) for more information.



Call center hours for KHEAA Verify have been shortened to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern.

### Constant

- We continue to serve our community, students, families and school partners to the utmost of our ability.
- Our customer service specialists remain in place to assist you. Please call 800-928-8926 if you have questions.
- Grant and scholarship programs are being processed as normal. New applications for assistance are being processed and the deadlines are listed on the program information pages at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).
- KHEAA Verify services continue.
- KHEAA's loan origination and disbursement services continue.

## What 2020 graduates can expect from college courses

Unless they've taken dual credit classes, many high school seniors headed toward college won't really know what to expect when they step into a college classroom for the first time. These tips can help students be prepared for their first day of class.

Most professors take attendance and class participation seriously. Being late for class, missing classes, and not paying attendance in class could hurt your final grade. Attendance policies vary so much that it's not easy to generalize. Read the syllabus for each class carefully because many professors will explain their policies there.

Many colleges and universities have first day of class attendance policies, which allow instructors to drop students who don't attend the first class meeting. If your college does and you have reason to think you might miss a first class, contact those instructors beforehand to let them know your situation.

The best strategy is to make every class on time if at all possible. If you know you're going to have to miss a class or be late, let your professor know. If you come in late, do so with the least amount of disturbance possible.

Participating in class will help your grade and help you establish a relationship with your professor — so long as you don't overdo it. Don't be Hermione Granger in Professor Snape's class and hold up your hand every time the professor asks a question.

### Assignments

Expect assignments to help you learn what you need for your chosen career. Even the classes you have to take for general studies will teach you something you can apply to your career or your life in general. In nearly every career, you'll have to analyze and solve problems, often by yourself. You can expect your

classwork to focus on that, either through a writing assignment or a lab experiment.

Many college classes will have fewer assignments than your high school classes did. Some courses may only have a mid-term exam and a final exam, which means you can't afford to do badly on either of them.

If you do have assignments, you'll need to keep on top of them because you'll rarely have a chance to turn in make-up work for extra credit. If you have a professor who allows that, count yourself lucky.



## Scholarship Spotlight

### Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association: Charles E. Wilson Scholarship

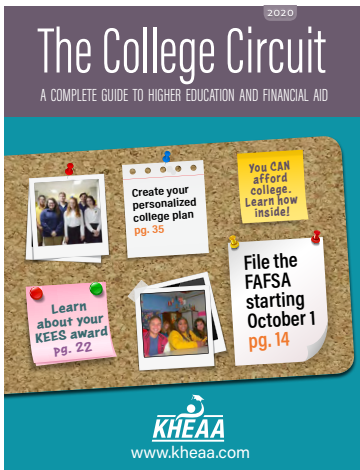
**Eligibility:** Must be a legal resident of Kentucky and be enrolled in a recognized horticulture or related program at any college, university or community college in Kentucky. Application available online.

**Award:** \$500

**Number:** 1

**Contact:** Michael Mueller, Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association, P.O. Box 5006, Frankfort, KY 40602; 502.330.8300; [info@knla.org](mailto:info@knla.org); [www.knla.org](http://www.knla.org)

## Free booklet can help families plan for college



Kentuckians planning for higher education will find *The College Circuit*, a booklet published by KHEAA, to be a useful resource.

It can be used by students ranging in age from middle school to adults. Parents and counselors can also use it to help their students plan and pay for college.

The booklet includes information about:

- Exploring careers,
- Scholarship searches,
- How to apply for financial aid, and
- College planning and financial aid terms.

Students and families will also find detailed information about the KEES program. The booklet shows the steps involved in applying for federal student aid and provides guidance about student loans.

*The College Circuit* also has college planning timelines and a budgeting exercise, as well as a scavenger hunt and puzzles.

To request copies, please email [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com) or use the order form on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

## ADVANTAGE Education Loan

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With fixed rates and NO FEES, the Advantage Education Loan can take students' minds off money so they can focus on their future.

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[AdvantageEducationLoan.com](http://AdvantageEducationLoan.com)

