

# Counselor Connection

## August 2020



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### Check net price calculators to get idea of college costs

Kentucky high school students headed for college can get an idea of how much it costs to attend using the school's net price calculator (NPC).

To use the NPC, students must enter information about their academic standing and their parents' finances. It is important to remember that the result is an estimate only.

Gov. Andy Beshear advised families to make sure they look for the net price, not the net cost.

"The net price is the amount a family can expect to pay toward a student's college education, including any loans," he added. "The net cost takes into account student loans, which must be repaid, so it will look lower than the net price."

The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges to have a calculator on their websites. The department has a search tool on its website, <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>, so students can look for a school's calculator.



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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).

## Students have different options after high school

Many students think of education after high school as the traditional four-year college degree. However, students who don't want to go that route have other options from which to choose.

One option is a two-year degree that leads to a job in the workforce. A second option is to receive a diploma or certificate that takes six to 18 months to finish, then find a job.

Students have numerous financial aid programs to help them pay for that training, including the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, which KHEAA administers. They should contact the financial aid office of the school they plan to attend to learn more about student aid.

Military service is another option. That doesn't mean education has to stop at high school. All branches of the service have education options for service men and women, either while they're in uniform or after their discharge. Service members should contact their unit educational office to discuss their student aid options.

The state's National Guard members can take advantage of the Kentucky National Guard Tuition Assistance Program, also administered by KHEAA.



## KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The schedule is:

- **Aug. 25:** FAFSA Week Part 1: Gearing up for FAFSA, **Facebook**
- **Aug. 26:** FAFSA Week Part 2: Getting a Heads up on the FAFSA, **Twitter**
- **Aug. 27:** FAFSA Week Part 3: FSA FAQ, **Instagram**
- **Sept. 1:** Exploring Your Options: Kentucky National Guard, **Facebook**
- **Sept. 2:** Exploring Your Options: Joining the Workforce, **Twitter**
- **Sept. 3:** Exploring Your Options: Why College? **Instagram**
- **Sept. 8:** Getting In: The Highlights, **Facebook**
- **Sept. 9:** Getting In: The Admissions Process, **Twitter**
- **Sept. 10:** Getting In: The Importance of the ACT, **Instagram**
- **Sept. 15:** Campus Culture: Study Abroad Opportunities, **Facebook**
- **Sept. 16:** Campus Culture: Campus Life, **Twitter**
- **Sept. 17:** Campus Culture: SOS, **Instagram**
- **Sept. 22:** It's Money, Baby: Financial Literacy 101, **Facebook**
- **Sept. 23:** It's Money, Baby: Saving as a College Student, **Twitter**
- **Sept. 24:** It's Money, Baby: Budgeting, **Instagram**
- **Sept. 29:** FAFSA Week: FAFSA Trivia, **Facebook**
- **Sept. 30:** FAFSA Week: To Pay Back or Not Pay Back, **Twitter**
- **Oct. 1:** FAFSA Week: The Early Bird Gets the Worm, **Instagram**

All sessions begin at 3 p.m. Eastern, 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)

## Scholarship Spotlight

### Kids Chance of Kentucky Scholarship

**Eligibility:** Must be a child who had a parent seriously, catastrophically or fatally injured in a Kentucky employment-related accident and who is a Kentucky resident between 16 and 25 years old. The financial impact of the parent's injury or death will be a major consideration.

**Number:** Varies

**Award:** Up to \$2,500 per semester; renewable for 4 or more years provided progress is made toward a degree and student remains in good standing with the school

**Deadline:** October 30, spring semester; April 15, fall semester

**Contact:** Counselor or Scholarship Committee, Kids Chance of Kentucky, P.O. Box 910234, Lexington, KY 40591; 859.219.0194; [gdavis5@windstream.net](mailto:gdavis5@windstream.net); [www.kidschanceky.org](http://www.kidschanceky.org)

## Online booklets advise freshmen, sophomores

College and career planning guides geared toward high school freshmen and sophomores are now available online from KHEAA.

“Getting Started” is a 13-page booklet that gives freshmen guidance on how to make the most of their high school years. The 14-page “Getting Set” for sophomores continues that guidance, with more detailed information about student financial aid.

“These booklets give students in their early high school years excellent advice on how to prepare for careers or for postsecondary education,” said Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, who is also secretary of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. “As a former teacher and assistant principal, I know firsthand many students rely on materials like these to help them plan for their future.”

Both booklets can be accessed on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

## College Board changes 2020 forum to virtual format

The College Board Forum 2020 will be held virtually this year on Oct. 26–28. The program will include colloquia, concurrent sessions, a college fair and networking opportunities.

The College Board will also hold its national and regional governance meetings, including the annual meeting, during the virtual forum. Members will receive information on how they can participate and vote this fall.

Registration will open in August. For more information, visit [forum.collegeboard.org](http://forum.collegeboard.org) or email [forum@collegeboard.org](mailto:forum@collegeboard.org).





## KHEAA's vloggers ready for new academic year

KHEAA's high school and freshman college vloggers are in place for the 2020–2021 school year.

Ramona Morris, a senior at Opportunity Middle College in Lexington, will vlog about the college admissions and financial aid processes this year.

Morris said her hobbies include filming for her YouTube Channel and reading.

"I'm not sure what my dreams are," she said, "but I do want to continue filming and eventually have a career based around media, film and communication."

Newman, last year's high school vlogger, graduated from Louisville's Valley High School this spring and now attends Eastern Kentucky University. She plans to major in education.

Her vlogs will help this year's high school seniors understand what their first year of college may be like.

The vlogs can be seen on the [KHEAA YouTube](#) channel.



**RAMONA MORRIS**



**SHELBY NEWMAN**

## State seeking feedback on language standards

The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking feedback on the draft Kentucky Academic Standards for World Language.

To provide feedback, please use the public feedback comment form. The public comment period will last until Sept. 16. Due to the amount of text within the survey, it is recommended that surveys be completed on a full-size computer or laptop screen.

Anyone with questions about the process can email [standards@education.ky.gov](mailto:standards@education.ky.gov)



## Check KEES accounts to ensure their accuracy

Kentucky high school students and 2020 graduates should check their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

KEES allows students to earn money for college for good grades in high school and for qualifying scores on the ACT or SAT. KEES is funded by Kentucky Lottery proceeds.

“It is important for students to check their KEES accounts each year to make sure they will receive all the awards they have earned when they enter postsecondary education,” Governor Andy Beshear said. “KEES awards can help many students reduce the amount of student loans they need for college, particularly when they are coupled with other academic or need-based scholarships.”

To check their awards, students need to sign in to their account on [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com). If they don't already have an account, they can set one up.

Students can verify their KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade for each course taken during the year and converting it to a 4.0 scale. On this scale, an A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0, D = 1.0, and F = 0. Pluses and minuses count the same, so an A-minus and an A-plus are both worth 4.0 points. Grades for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge Advanced International and dual credit courses are weighted, making an A = 5.0, B = 4.0, etc.

Students who have problems with their account or cannot see their KEES information should call 800.928.8926.

### ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Scores Available
Oct. 10, 2020	Sept. 17, 2020	TBD
Oct. 17, 2020	Sept. 17, 2020	TBD
Oct. 24, 2020	Sept. 17, 2020	TBD
Dec. 12, 2020	Nov. 6, 2020	TBD
Feb. 6, 2021	Jan. 8, 2021	TBD
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	TBD
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	TBD
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021	TBD

### SAT National Test Dates

Sept. 26, 2020	Aug. 26, 2020	Oct. 9, 2020
Oct. 3, 2020	Sept. 4, 2020	Oct. 16, 2020
Nov. 7, 2020	Oct. 7, 2020	Nov. 20, 2020
Dec. 5, 2020	Nov. 5, 2020	Dec. 18, 2020
March 13, 2021	Feb. 12, 2021	March 26, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	May 21, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	July 14, 2021