

# Counselor Connection

## June 2021



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## Students should check their KEES accounts for accuracy

Kentucky high school students and Class of 2021 graduates should check their Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

Under the KEES programs, students earn money for college for good grades in high school and good scores on the ACT or SAT.

To check their awards, students must sign into their account on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com). If they don't yet have an account, they can set one up.

“Kentucky high school students and recent graduates should check their KEES accounts at least once a year to make sure they’ve gotten all funds that they have earned through their hard work in classes,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “KEES funds earned in high school can help students attend college or technical school, giving them more opportunities to pursue a career they’re passionate about and that will provide well for their families.”

Students can verify that their KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade for each course taken during the school 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- and an A+ 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 should also make sure their account has their correct date of birth and Social Security number.

If they find problems with their account or cannot access their KEES information, students should call (800) 928-8926.

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).



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## Free booklet helps Kentuckians plan for higher education

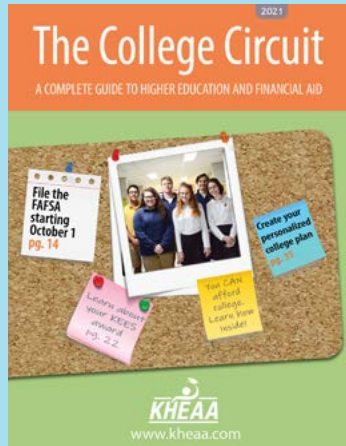
Kentuckians planning for higher education should check out “The College Circuit,” a helpful informational booklet published by KHEAA.

Kentuckians can request a free copy by emailing [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com).

“Kentucky middle and high school students and recent high school graduates can look to this booklet for help planning for their futures. My administration puts education first because it’s key to more opportunities for our people as we build a better Kentucky for all,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “The booklet also helps parents support their children and teens as they look into different options for education after high school.”

Counselors can also use it to help their students plan and pay for college. The booklet includes information about careers; college preparation; state and federal financial aid; tips for parents; online resources; and a template for setting up a personal college plan.

The booklet shows the steps involved in applying for federal student aid and provides guidance about student loans.



## Private loans bridge gap between college costs, other student aid

Most college-bound students qualify for financial aid to help pay for their education. That aid includes federal and state grants, scholarships and federal loans. But some students may find that these programs don’t cover all the costs of college. Others may not qualify for state and federal aid because they’re going to school less than half-time.

Because interest rates on private loans depend on the borrower’s credit rating, students may have to pay higher rates than they would on federal student loans. In addition, many lenders require students to have a cosigner, and most require the college to certify that the student needs the loan.

Students and parents should compare the private loans offered by various lenders to find the best possible deal. And, they should definitely check into the Advantage Education Loan, Kentucky’s only not-for-profit private student loan. The Advantage Education Loan is offered by KHEAA’s sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC).

Visit [www.advantageeducationloan.com](http://www.advantageeducationloan.com) for more information about Advantage Education Loans.

## No newsletter in July

The Counselor Connection will not be published in July. Publication will resume in August for the new school year.

## KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

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

- **July 6:** Financial Freedom: Money Management, **Facebook**
- **July 7:** Financial Freedom: How to Save Money, **Twitter**
- **July 13:** Beach Bash: Just Keep Swimming Towards Success, **Facebook**
- **July 14:** Beach Bash: Plenty of Scholarships in the Sea, **Twitter**
- **July 20:** KHEAA Outreach: KHEAA at Your Service, **Facebook**
- **July 21:** KHEAA Outreach: Get to Know Us, **Twitter**
- **July 27:** Admit Me: Your Admissions Questions Answered, **Facebook**
- **July 28:** Admit Me: Before You Apply, **Twitter**

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)



## Previous webinar recordings available

During the spring and fall semesters Kentucky Goes to College, a program sponsored by KHEAA, hosted multiple webinars regarding college and college admissions. These webinars covered topics ranging from filing the FAFSA to information about KHEAA publications. Recordings of the presentations are available to view either at the [Kentucky Goes to College website](#), or on [KHEAA's YouTube channel](#).

Along with these webinars, Kentucky Goes to College offers other resources for schools and organizations interested in enhancing their college-going culture. They are currently hosting a FAFSA Challenge contest which aims to get students to complete the FAFSA.

## Four students will win funds for college in reading challenge

Four Kentucky children will win \$1,000 toward college this year through a summer reading program at their local public library. KHEAA, KY Saves 529, and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives have launched the Go Wild! College Savings Summer Reading Sweepstakes as part of the 2021 Summer Reading Program at participating public libraries across the state.

The sweepstakes, which runs through Aug. 13, will award four \$1,000 college savings accounts to children 18 years or younger. In addition, each winner's local public library will receive \$500 toward future reading programs. KHEAA and KY Saves 529 are sponsoring Go Wild! as part of this year's public library reading program, [Tails and Tales](#), to encourage children to keep reading and learning during summer vacation. KDLA is an agency in the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

"As an educator and parent, I encourage every parent to get their children involved in their local public library's summer reading program because students can lose valuable academic skills if their brains take a summer vacation from learning," said Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, who is also the secretary of the cabinet. "In addition, the partnership with KY Saves 529 is a great way to remind families to start saving for postsecondary education."

Parents, grandparents or guardians can enter their children for the sweepstakes by filling out an entry form at their local public library when their children sign up for the Summer Reading Program or by going to <https://www.kysaves.com/home/gowild.html> to fill out the entry form.

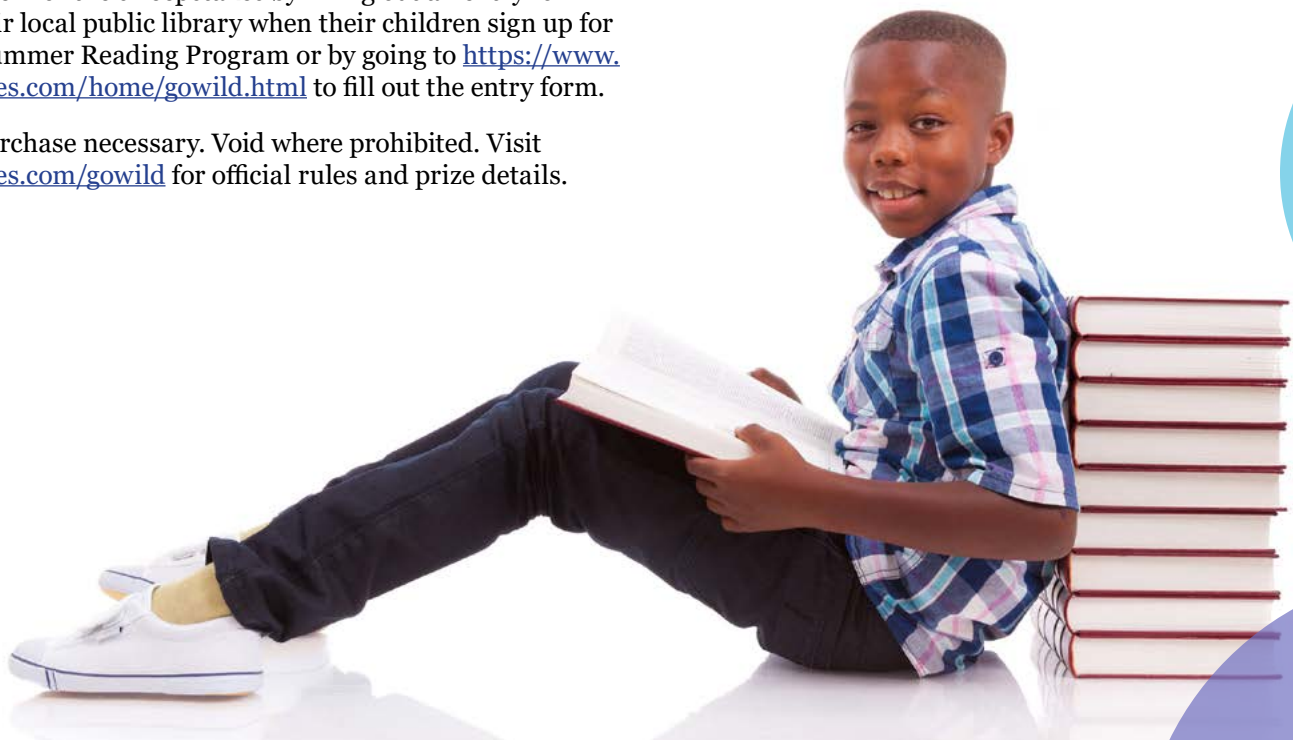
No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Visit [kysaves.com/gowild](https://www.kysaves.com/gowild) for official rules and prize details.



## Vaccinated students can win full scholarships

Kentucky youth age 12 to 17 can win one of 15 full scholarships to any Kentucky public college, university, technical or trade school in the state through the Shot at a Million sweepstakes after they have received at least one dose of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccinated Kentuckians 18 and older can sign up for three chances to win \$1 million through the sweepstakes as well. To learn more and sign up, visit [ShotAtAMillion](#). The first \$1 million winner and the first five full scholarship winners will be announced Friday, July 2.



# Flyer gives eighth-graders tips about high school success

Kentucky eighth-graders headed for high school in the fall should check out “High School Basics,” a four-page flyer from KHEAA.

“Kentucky eighth-graders have been through a tough school year as we’ve fought the COVID-19 pandemic, and we want to make their transition to high school as smooth as possible after all of their sacrifices to help protect others on Team Kentucky,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “This free flyer will let them know what to expect as freshmen and how they can make the most of their high school years.”



“High School Basics” includes information about:

- Credits and graduation requirements,
- Calculating a GPA,
- Reading a high school transcript,
- The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) and
- Earning college credit while in high school.

Free copies are available by emailing [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com). Please remember to include a mailing address along with a request. An online version is available on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

## Scholarship Spotlight

### Kentucky National Guard Leader Development Foundation Scholarship

**Eligibility:** Must be the dependent child of an active, retired or deceased Kentucky National Guard member and submit high school or applicable college transcript, a 250-word essay on a given subject, a recent photo and 3 character reference letters from public, educational and/or religious leaders who are not family members. Based on financial need, academic scholarship, personal character and leadership qualities.

**Award:** Varies

**Deadline:** early July

**Number:** 6; subject to change

**Application:** Kentucky National Guard Leader Development Foundation, 1117 Louisville Road, Frankfort, KY 40601; 502.564.7500; or 800.251.2333

## ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Scores Available
<b>September 11, 2021</b>	<b>August 6, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>October 23, 2021</b>	<b>September 17, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>December 11, 2021</b>	<b>November 5, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>February 12, 2022</b>	<b>January 7, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>April 2, 2022</b>	<b>February 25, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>June 11, 2022</b>	<b>May 6, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>July 16, 2022</b>	<b>June 17, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## SAT National Test Dates

<b>August 28, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>October 2, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>November 6, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>December 4, 2021</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>March 12, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>May 7, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>June 4, 2022</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

