

# Counselor Connection

## March 2021



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## Compare award letters to find the best college deal

Most high school seniors headed for college will soon be receiving financial aid award letters. Seniors and their parents should read those letters carefully.

“Award letters usually show what one year of college will cost, so it’s important for students and parents to make sure they understand what each school is offering in student aid,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “One vital thing to consider is how much of the aid being offered is in federal student loans, which have to be paid back. While many families will need loans for school, they should borrow the least amount possible.”

The letters may also show the expected family contribution (EFC), which is how much the student’s family is expected to pay toward those costs. The EFC is subtracted from the total cost of attendance to get a student’s financial need. The letter will then list various sources of financial aid offered to cover that need. Students can accept or reject any or all of those proposed sources.

If the package includes federal loans but the total aid provided isn’t enough to pay all expenses, students may have to turn to a private loan. Comparison shopping is a must in that case.

Students can also appeal the awards if their family’s financial circumstances have changed.



### Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

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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. The schedule is:

- **April 1:** Myth Busting: Admissions, *Instagram*
- **April 6:** Don't Be An April Fool: Live Budgeting, *Facebook*
- **April 7:** Don't Be An April Fool: Financial Terms to Know, *Twitter*
- **April 8:** Don't Be An April Fool: Banking and Credit, *Instagram*
- **April 13:** Spring Forward: Planting Seeds for the Fall, *Facebook*
- **April 14:** Spring Forward: Orientation and Registration, *Twitter*
- **April 15:** Spring Forward: Confessions of an Orientation Leader, *Instagram*
- **April 20:** Game Time: College Jeopardy, *Facebook*
- **April 21:** Game Time: The Price is Right!, *Twitter*
- **April 22:** Game Time: Finish the Phrase, *Instagram*
- **April 27:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: Award Letters and Decisions, *Facebook*
- **April 28:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: Verification 101, *Twitter*
- **April 29:** Wrapping Up Financial Aid: It's Not Too Late, *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)



## Financial literacy resources available from KHEAA

April is Financial Literacy Month, and Kentucky students can make use of financial literacy resources available from KHEAA.

“This financial literacy month, I ask all Kentucky students to utilize KHEAA’s financial literacy resources to learn basic tips and fraud protection,” said Andy Gov. Beshear. “Financial literacy is especially important to our students as they work to build strong economic futures for themselves and for our commonwealth.”

KHEAA’s “It’s Money, Baby” booklet helps students learn the basics of banking, credit cards, interest and protecting themselves from fraud. Free copies are available by emailing [publications@kheaa.com](mailto:publications@kheaa.com). Please remember to include a mailing address with your email request.

The agency’s regional outreach counselors can also present “It’s Money, Baby” programs for schools and other groups. KHEAA has 13 outreach counselors located across the state. To find the counselor for your county, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com) and click on the KHEAA Outreach Services link under the Counselors tab.

Links to games and sites that teach students about finances can also be found under the Money Management tab on [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).





## KHEAA scholarship essay contest deadline is May 31

The deadline for a student attending a KEES-eligible high school to submit an entry in KHEAA's scholarship essay contest is May 31.

Students must be sophomores this school year.

The winner will receive a \$500 college scholarship and a photo shoot at their high school. The photos will be used in KHEAA publications and on KHEAA websites.

To be considered for the scholarship, students must submit an essay addressing one of these subjects:

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

The essay must be no more than 200 words in length and cannot mention the student's name, school, county or community. The essay should not identify the student by race, gender, religion or other manner. Essays in excess of 200 words or ones that include identifying information will be disqualified.

The essay topic must be clearly indicated at the top of the page. The student's name, address and high school must be listed at the bottom of the essay. The student must be a high school junior during the 2021–2022 school year. For contest details, visit [kheaa.com/website/contest/intro](https://kheaa.com/website/contest/intro).

Students from high schools that have been featured in the past five years — Bullitt East, Warren East, Paducah St. Mary, Logan County and Daviess County — are not eligible to enter this year's contest.



## KHEAA to hold webinars about financial aid

During the spring semester, KHEAA Outreach is offering a series of webinars about financial aid and financial literacy.

The schedule is:

- ***It's Money, Baby!: Your Guide to Financial Literacy, Thursday***, April 1, 7 p.m.
- ***Getting In: High School Juniors' Guide to College, Thursday***, April 15, 7 p.m.
- ***Surviving College: A Guide to Persisting to Graduation***, Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m.

All times listed are Eastern time.

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

## High school seniors can enter vlogger contest

Kentucky high school seniors graduating in 2022 are invited to enter a vlogging contest sponsored by KHEAA.

The student must attend a school that participates in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program and plan to attend college in the Fall of 2022.

One senior will be chosen to provide four vlogs for KHEAA between August 2021 and May 2022. The vlogs will tell about the winner's experience with the college admissions and financial aid processes.

The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship to a Kentucky school. The contest begins on April 5 and ends May 21. For complete rules, visit [www.kygoestocollege.com](http://www.kygoestocollege.com).

To enter, students must create an original video no more than 2 minutes long that introduces them and tells why they would be the best person to share their experiences. They must submit an entry form and post the vlog to YouTube no later than May 21. Employees and the immediate family members of KHEAA and the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) are not eligible.

## Scholarship Spotlight

### 4-H Equine Club

#### Race for Education “Leg Up” Award

**Eligibility:** Must be a Kentucky 4-H equine club member and be a graduating Kentucky high school senior. Individual clubs may have additional criteria.

**Award:** \$250 – \$500

**Deadline:** May 1

**Number:** Varies

**Application:** <http://raceforeducation.org/programs/scholarships>



## Save money by earning college credit in high school

One way to save money on higher education is to earn college credits while in high school.

“Continuing your education after you graduate can lead to a better life not just for you and your family but also for all Kentuckians,” Gov. Andy Beshear. “I urge all Kentucky high school students to take advantage of programs that will let them earn technical school or college credit before they graduate. Doing so can save them thousands of dollars as they continue their training or education after high school.”

High school students, whether they plan to get a technical degree or four-year degree, can take advantage of several programs that let them earn college credits. These programs include:

- **Dual credit courses.** Dual credit courses let students earn both college and high school credit. In some cases, students will pay less than the college tuition rate. KHEAA administers the state's dual credit scholarship programs, which can be used at participating public universities, public two-year colleges and private colleges and universities.
- **Advanced Placement courses.** AP classes count as high school credits, but many colleges will give students college credit if they earn a certain grade on AP exams. Offered by the College Board, which provides the SAT, AP classes are widely available.
- **International Baccalaureate Diploma and Cambridge Advanced International programs.** IB and CAI, for students 16 to 19 years old, are similar to AP. Students may be able to receive college credit for the IB and CAI classes they take.



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