



COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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FAFSA is now available for use with mobile devices

The 2019–20 FAFSA can now be submitted using mobile devices.

The mobile-ready format means students can apply for federal student aid from virtually anywhere, using nothing more than the phone in their pocket.

To fill out the FAFSA, students can:

- Download the myStudentAid app (iOS or Android) and fill it out from a mobile device.
- Visit fafsa.gov and fill out the form using the device of their choice, including a smartphone, tablet or laptop.

FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov has FAFSA campaign resources — including email templates, campaign talking points and social media posts — that counselors can use to help spread the word about the mobile-ready 2019–20 FAFSA and myStudentAid mobile app.

High school seniors, college freshmen can enter vlogger contest

Kentucky high school seniors and college freshmen are invited to enter a vlogging contest sponsored by KHEAA.

The high school student must attend a school that participates in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program and plan to attend college next fall. The college freshman must be a KEES recipient attending a Kentucky school.

One senior and one freshman will be chosen to provide four vlogs for KHEAA between January and August 2019. The high school senior vlogs will tell about the winner's experience with the college admissions and financial aid processes. The college student will talk about making a successful transition from high school to college.

Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship to a Kentucky school.

The contest ends Nov. 16. For complete rules, visit 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 Nov. 16.

Employees and the immediate family members of KHEAA and the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) are not eligible.



11 Kentucky schools earn Blue Ribbon designation

Eleven Kentucky schools have been named 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education based on their overall academic excellence.

The Kentucky schools are:

- Bishop Brossart High School, Campbell County.
- Hometown Elementary, Woodford County.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Boone County.
- Oak Hill Elementary, Pulaski County.
- Our Lady of Lourdes School, Jefferson County.
- Paintsville Elementary, Paintsville.
- Sacred Heart Model School, Jefferson County.
- St. Cecilia Elementary School, Kenton County.
- St. Joseph School, Campbell County.
- Spottsville Elementary, Henderson County.
- Wyan-Pine Grove Elementary, Laurel County.

The Kentucky schools are among 349 public and private, elementary, middle and high schools across the country recognized this year.

Representatives from each school will attend a recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 7–8.

More information on the program and a list of past Kentucky winners are available at www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools.

Kentucky gets GEAR UP grants worth \$140 million

Three Kentucky entities have been awarded some \$140 million in GEAR UP grants to help prepare middle and high school students for higher education. The federal grants will be matched by local, state and other federal sources, giving the state nearly \$300 million to use in its efforts.

Berea College will receive two grants totaling \$109 million to help more than 19,000 students in 19 Appalachian counties improve their academic skills.

The grants will serve students in Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Estill, Garrard, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Madison, Owsley, Perry, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle and Whitley counties.

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education received a \$24.5 million grant. CPE will serve at least 10,000 students in at least ten districts. The districts will be announced at a later date.

CPE will offer students support through their first year in college to help decrease the number of students who drop out.

The West Kentucky Educational Cooperative will receive a \$1.47 million grant for its first year, renewable to up to seven years. WKEC plans to offer GEAR UP to some 6,700 students in ten districts.

WKEC is a cooperative effort of 25 public school districts and the Diocese of Owensboro.

GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. The grants will help students prepare for both college education and workforce training.

State board approves new graduation requirements

The Kentucky Board of Education has approved changes in the minimum high school graduation requirements for students who will graduate in 2023 and 2024. The changes are subject to a 30-day public comment period, which will likely start Nov. 1.

The changes reflect what business and industry leaders say high school graduates should be able to do: communicate clearly, achieve academically, think critically, adapt to change and collaborate.

Under the proposed changes, a student must complete at least 22 credits and demonstrate basic skills in reading and mathematics on tests. The tests can be taken more than once, and appeals could be made to a local superintendent if necessary.

Other requirements include:

- completing the state science and social studies tests.
- passing a state-mandated civics test.
- receiving instruction in financial literacy.
- demonstrating essential skills and technology.

Public comments on the changes are due by Nov. 30. Written comments may be sent to Deanna Durrett, General Counsel, Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601, or emailed to regcomments@education.ky.gov.

If the board approves the changes, the requirements will move to the General Assembly for consideration.



KDE seeks comments on career studies standards

The Kentucky Department of Education is seeking feedback on revised standards for career studies, formerly called vocational studies.

Through Nov. 2, anyone interested can review the current career studies standards to share feedback and suggestions for use in developing new standards. Feedback will be considered and needed revisions made before sending proposed standards to the Kentucky Board of Education.

To provide feedback, visit <https://www.research.net/r/KDEcareer>.

Because of the amount of text within the survey, the survey can be more easily completed on a full-size computer or laptop.

For more information, email matt.chaliff@education.ky.gov or teresa.rogers@education.ky.gov.

Students can enter Real World Design challenge

Students in grades 9–12 can register as team for the Real World Design challenge by Nov. 17

The challenge gives students a chance to work on real-world engineering challenges as a team. Each year,

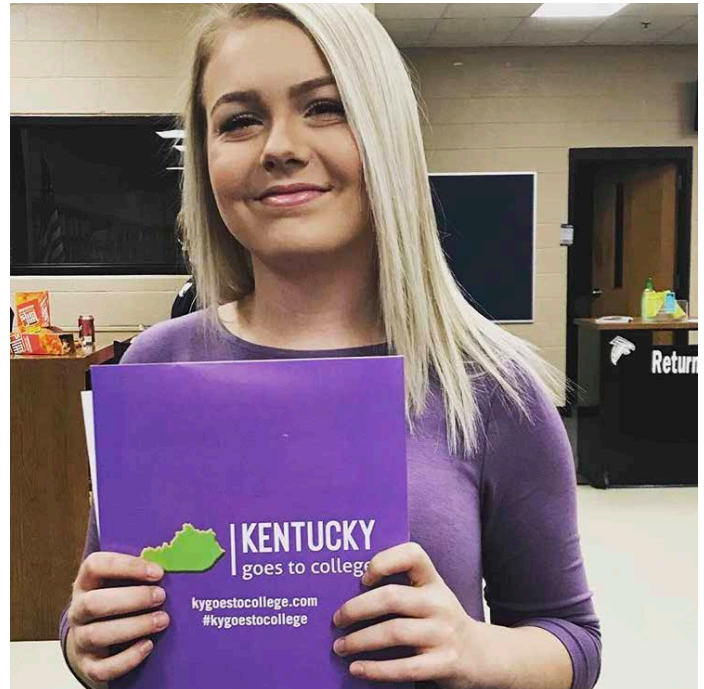


teams are asked to address a challenge that confronts the nation's leading industries. Students will use professional engineering software to develop their

solutions and presentations to demonstrate the value of their solutions.

This year's challenge is to design unmanned aircraft systems, create a theory of operation and develop a business plan for the commercial operations of the systems.

Students can register to enter as a team at <http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/index.php>.



College Application Campaign in full swing

The Kentucky College Application Campaign gives graduating high school seniors hands-on help in applying to college. The program is designed to build excitement around the college application process and encourage seniors to take this important step toward continuing their post-high school education.

Events are taking place around the state in more than 100 high schools. It's not too late to join this important campaign.

Visit kygoestocollege.com to register and receive important updates and resources for your event.

Keeping up with **KEES**



The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) provides Kentucky high school students with money for tuition and education-related expenses.

Just earn a 2.5 GPA or better in each year of high school to get it. Better grades means more scholarship money for college.

You can also get a bonus award for the highest ACT composite score over 15 you make. Qualify for at least one base (GPA) award to receive the bonus.

In addition, students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during any year of high school can earn additional KEES bonus money by making qualifying scores on AP, IB or CAI exams.

Check out the chart to see how much KEES money you have earned.

KEES Award Amounts

GPA	Award	ACT Score	Award
4.0	\$500	28 or above	\$500
3.90	\$475	27	\$464
3.80	\$450	26	\$428
3.75	\$437	25	\$393
3.70	\$425	24	\$357
3.60	\$400	23	\$321
3.50	\$375	22	\$286
3.40	\$350	21	\$250
3.30	\$325	20	\$214
3.25	\$312	19	\$179
3.20	\$300	18	\$143
3.10	\$275	17	\$107
3.00	\$250	16	\$71
2.90	\$225	15	\$36
2.80	\$200		
2.75	\$187		
2.70	\$175		
2.60	\$150		
2.50	\$125		

Amounts may change based on funding.

Students eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch

AP Exam Score	IB Exam Score	CAI Exam Score	Bonus Amount
5	7	a*, a, b	\$300
4	6	c, d	\$250
3	5	e	\$200

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Road to College Checklist

for middle schoolers



6th grade

- ▶ Set goals about things you want to achieve while in middle school.
- ▶ Develop good study habits.
- ▶ Take an interest inventory.
- ▶ Explore jobs and careers.
- ▶ Get involved in school and community activities.

7th grade

- ▶ Take pre-algebra, if possible.
- ▶ Focus on classes and keep up with homework assignments.
- ▶ Take classes in art, music and computer science.
- ▶ Read as much as you can. It will help on the SAT and ACT.
- ▶ Shadow a person in career that interests you.

8th grade

- ▶ Talk with your counselor about classes that prepare you for college.
- ▶ Take algebra, if possible.
- ▶ Start thinking about goals for high school.
- ▶ Take a foreign language.
- ▶ Focus on getting good grades.

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Road to College Checklist

for freshmen & sophomores



Freshmen

- Start thinking about what your interests are and take electives that meet those interests.
- Sign up for honors courses. College admissions counselors look not only at your GPA but also at what classes you were taking when you earned that stellar GPA.
- Create a file for copies of report cards, lists of awards and honors, and lists of school and community activities, including both paid and volunteer work, and descriptions of what you do.

Sophomores

- Think about what career you may like to have when you get out of school. It will help when deciding on a college if you know what majors interest you.
- Prepare for the ACT PLAN test.
- Take the PSAT in October. It's good practice for when you take the PSAT as a junior.
- Register in April for any SAT Subject Tests you want to take in June.



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