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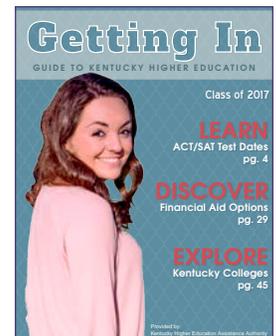
COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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Getting In being sent to high schools

Copies of the 42nd edition of *Getting In*, the state's premier book about college admissions and financial aid, are being sent to high schools across the state for distribution to students in the Class of 2017. We ask that you distribute to all students, not just those who are college-bound.

If you need more copies, please contact the Publications Department by emailing publications@kheaa.com or by calling 800.928.8926, ext. 7214.



USDE seeking comments on making FAFSA simpler

The U.S. Department of Education is seeking comments on how it could make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) simpler. The FAFSA is used to apply for state and federal college financial aid programs.

In particular, the department is asking how it can:

- Minimize the burden of collecting financial aid information on students and families, including through the use of information technology.
- Enhance the quality, usefulness and clarity of the information collected from respondents.

It also wants to know if its estimate for the time needed to complete the FAFSA is correct.

Public comments are due by May 31. To make a comment, go to federalregister.gov and click on the "Submit a Formal Comment" button.

With this edition:

Included with this *Counselor Connection*, Online Resources flyer.

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.



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AID, SCHOLARSHIP AND MONEY TIPS!
BIT.LY/KHEAAFACEBOOK

April declared National Financial Literacy Month

April is National Financial Literacy Month, and Kentuckians can tap into free resources from KHEAA.

It's Money, Baby, a booklet about financial literacy, is available free from KHEAA.

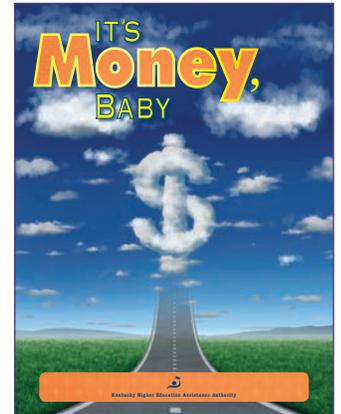
The 32-page booklet includes sections about such topics as:

- Cash basics.
- Banking.
- Credit.
- Insurance.
- Fraud and identity theft.

To order a free copy, email publications@kheaa.com. Please include your mailing address.

An online version of the booklet is available on kheaa.com, while financial literacy videos can be found at itsmoney.kheaa.com.

In addition, KHEAA's regional outreach counselors can provide *It's Money, Baby* presentations for schools and other agencies. Call 800.928.8926, ext. 7577, to schedule a presentation.



Compare award letters to find best college deal

By now, most high school seniors headed for college will be receiving financial aid award letters. Seniors and their parents should read those letters carefully.

The letter will usually show the total cost of attendance — what that school costs for one year, including tuition, fees, room, meals, books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses.

It may also show how much the student's family is expected to pay toward those costs, the expected family contribution (EFC). 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 pay for the costs not covered by the EFC. Students can accept or reject any or all of those proposed sources.

Students can also appeal the awards made if they believe their family's financial circumstances have changed.

One consideration is how much of the aid being offered is in federal student loans, which have to be repaid. If the package includes federal loans and isn't enough to pay all expenses, students may be looking at a private loan. Comparison shopping is a must in that case.

But don't choose a school based simply on cost. A more expensive college will often be a better choice than picking a less expensive one that turns out not to be a good fit. Transferring or dropping out can increase the total cost of a college degree.



Gov. Bevin declares April Adult College Readiness Month

April has been declared Adult College Readiness Month in Kentucky by Gov. Matt Bevin.

It also begins a joint effort between KHEAA and Kentucky Adult Education (KYAE) to help adult students get a higher education. It targets adults just beginning college or technical school and adults who want to resume their higher education.

The partnership will provide college-going adults with training and resources. Adults can get free instruction to brush up on college-prep skills and financial literacy. They can also get help with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, which is used to apply for state and federal student aid.

KYAE projects that by 2020, 63 percent of all jobs in Kentucky will require some level of education beyond a high school diploma or GED.

For more information about Kentucky Adult Education, or to find a local center, go to kyae.ky.gov. For more information about KHEAA, visit kheaa.com.



State receives \$100,000 career preparation grant

Kentucky has received a \$100,000 New Skills for Youth grant to develop a detailed career-readiness action plan.

The Kentucky Department of Education will use the funds to assess the state's career and technical education system and prepare to implement a new action plan.

The state can apply for the phase two grant, which will require Kentucky to show the commitment and ability to execute the action plan developed in phase one.

New Skills for Youth grants are part of a five-year initiative aimed at increasing economic opportunities by strengthening career-focused education in high school and ending with post-high school degrees or credentials aligned with business needs.

Kentucky residents have a chance to win iPad in KHEAA drawing

Kentucky residents have another chance to win a new iPad from KHEAA in a sweepstakes being held through Facebook in May. The contest runs from 12 a.m. on May 1 through 12 a.m. on June 1.

To enter, a Kentuckian must visit the KHEAA Facebook page, click on the orange graduate icon on the KHEAA Facebook page and answer one question about college. KHEAA will not share or sell any personal information to a third party.

Only Kentucky residents are eligible. Employees of KHEAA or its sister agency, the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), and their immediate family members are not eligible. Prior winners are also not eligible.

The drawing will be held in early June, and the winner will be notified by email. The winner must respond by email within three calendar days to receive the iPad with Retina display. If no response is received within three days, another winner will be drawn.



Flyer helps 8th-graders succeed in high school

Kentucky eighth-graders headed for high school in the fall might find “High School Basics,” a four-page flyer, helpful. The free flyer can be ordered from KHEAA.

“High School Basics” has sections about:

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

Free copies are available by emailing publications@kheaa.com. Please remember to include a mailing address.

High School BASICS
Brought to you by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority KHEAA

Keep your after-high school options open
Everybody should at least think about getting some education past high school. It can be at a technical school or a two-year college. It doesn't have to mean four years at a big university... There are lots of options out there to help you get the skills you need to succeed in the workplace and in life.
Don't limit yourself. You might change your mind next year, or five or ten years from now. That's why you need to do your best now -- you never know what might happen or what opportunities might come your way. You need to be ready.
In high school, you'll hear terms like credit, GPA, and transcript. If you understand what they mean, you'll be in better shape for whatever you want to do after high school.

What are credits?
A credit is what you earn for passing a class. In most cases, you earn 1 credit if you pass a class that takes a year and 1/2 credit for a class that takes one semester (like PE or Health). If you're in a public school, the state requires you to have so many credits in certain areas to get your diploma. You have minimum diploma requirements, which are the absolute least you can do to graduate. Then you have the Pre-College Curriculum, which defines the types of classes that four-year public universities in Kentucky expect you to have taken before you can enroll.
You're better off if you start with Pre-College Curriculum courses like, even if you don't think you'll go to a four-year college. Like we said, you might change your mind. Here are the requirements:

Subject	Minimum Diploma Requirements	Pre-College Curriculum
Language Arts	4 credits: English I, II, III, IV	4 credits: English I, II, III, IV or AP English
Mathematics	4 credits: Math includes Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II 2 credits: more math classes can count as an elective	4 credits: math includes Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry The fourth credit can count as an elective
Science	3 credits that include content about biological science, physical science, earth and space science, and living organisms	3 credits: same as minimum diploma plus at least one lab course
Social Studies	3 credits that include content about U.S. history, economics, government, world geography and civics	3 credits: same as minimum diploma
Health	1/2 credit that includes content about individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, community service	1/2 credit
Physical Education	1/2 credit that includes content about personal wellness and community service	1/2 credit
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts	1 credit: History and appreciation of visual and performing arts or another arts course that incorporates each content, or students may earn the credit for specialization in an art form	1 credit: same as minimum diploma
Foreign Language	2 credits	2 credits: same as minimum diploma
Electives	7 credits (4 must be based on student's I.P.T. Must demonstrate competency in technology)	5 credits (3 general) Recommended strongly: 1 or more courses that develop computer literacy

Deadline for KHEAA essay contest approaching

A rising junior at one of Kentucky's public or private high schools will win a \$500 scholarship and a photo shoot at his or her school through the Promote Your School scholarship contest, sponsored by KHEAA.

The school must participate in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to be eligible.

To enter, the student must submit an essay 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. The student must be a junior during the 2016–2017 school year. For essay topics and additional information, visit kheaa.com/website/contest/intro.

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

To enter, mail your essay to KHEAA Publications, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602. You may also email your essay to publications@kheaa.com or fax it to 502.696.7574. The winner will be chosen by a committee of KHEAA employees. The deadline for submissions is May 31.

Students from schools that have been featured the past five years are not eligible for this year's contest. Those schools are Lexington STEAM Academy, Somerset Christian, J. Graham Brown, Sacred Heart and Bowling Green.

Getting In
GUIDE TO KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION
Class of 2017

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Financial Aid Options
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EXPLORE
Kentucky Colleges
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Provided by
Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

Here are some free online resources to help you on the way to college.

actstudent.org – The ACT college entrance exam site

bigfuture.collegeboard.org – The College Board college planning site

cappex.com – College exploration

collegeboard.org – The College Board

collegeup.org – FAFSA completion and paying for college

collegelight.com – College search and application process

ed.gov – U.S. Department of Education

fafsa.ed.gov – FAFSA on the Web

fastweb.com – College scholarship search

fsaid.ed.gov – FAFSA Federal Student Aid ID

getschooled.com – High school graduation resources

Gotocollege.ky.gov – Single gateway to connect students to existing online planning resources and to compare college costs

imfirst.org – Resources for first-generation college students

kentuckyguard.com – Military tuition assistance

kheaa.com – Career exploration, college preparation, financial aid processes and estimating tools

kheslc.com – Kentucky student loans and borrower services

KnowHow2Transfer.org – Transfer process, institutional transfer policies, degree program requirements, transfer scholarships and transfer contact information

kycollegeappmonth.com – Kentucky College Application Month

kysaves.com – Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT)

kyvu.org – Kentucky Virtual Campus

kyvc4k12.org – Kentucky Virtual Campus for K-12 students

mappingyourfuture.org – Mapping Your Future

march2success.com – ACT prep

studentaid.ed.gov – Federal student aid programs

thinkcollege.net – Resources for students with disabilities

ONLINE RESOURCES

