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# COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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## Students encouraged to apply for education council

Students in Kentucky's public high schools who want to learn about and affect state policies are invited to apply for the Commissioner's Student Council. The council is open to students in grades 10-12.

During the year-long program, members will meet with Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt and Kentucky Department of Education staff to discuss how state decisions affect students throughout Kentucky. Members will provide a student perspective on issues impacting Kentucky students and schools.

The application and a list of Frequently Asked Questions are available on the KDE website, <http://education.ky.gov/CommOfEd/adv/Pages/Next-Generation-Student-Advisory-Council-.aspx>.

Interested students should complete and return the application to KDE via postal mail or email. Applications must be received by or postmarked no later than 4:30 p.m. ET, Thursday, September 15.

The council includes two students from each of the seven Kentucky Board of Education districts and at least one student from the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and a student enrolled in a career and technical education pathway. Students selected for the council have the option to serve consecutive one-year terms as long as they remain eligible to serve. The students selected this year will join seven returning members.



### With this edition:

Included with this *Counselor Connection*: FAFSA Checklist, FAFSA Infographics and KHEAA Outreach Counselors fliers.

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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# Students can file FAFSA starting October 1

One of the biggest changes in the college financial aid process begins soon: students can file the FAFSA, for the 2017-2018 school year beginning October 1. Until this year, they could not do so until January 1.

The change will make it easier for students and parents to complete the FAFSA because they can use their 2015 tax information instead of waiting until they have their 2016 tax information.

Students should file the FAFSA as soon as possible because some student aid programs have limited funding. Those who submit their FAFSA early have a better chance of receiving aid from those programs.

The best way to file the FAFSA is online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). Students and their parents should first visit <https://fsaid.ed.gov> to set up separate user names and passwords.



## ILP training session set

Home schools and private schools that use KHEAA's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) service can attend webinars this fall.

A Webinar about the ILP from the student's view will be offered October 11 from 4 to 5 p.m. To register, [follow this link](#).

A Webinar about the ILP as a school administration tool will be held October 12 from noon to 1 p.m. To register, [follow this link](#).

All times are Eastern.

Students use their ILPs to prepare themselves for the future. Designed for students in grades 6 through 12, they help students explore careers, establish goals, create résumés and plan their class schedules. Students can also use their ILPs to track their progress toward their academic and career goals.



# KASFAA workshops set for September, October

The Kentucky Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (KASFAA) invites you to participate in the 2016 Effective Instructional Leadership Training Program, “Counselor Training for College and Career Planning for High School Students.” This free one-day workshop will enhance your knowledge of college financial aid programs, provide updates from ACT and KHEAA, and inform you of other important services for your students.

Six sessions will be conducted across the state between September 27 and October 27. Participants can earn 6 credit hours applicable towards Instructional Leadership Training requirements. Participants must be present for the entire program to receive a certificate. No partial credit will be given.

The Kentucky Office of Employment and Training will also provide updates about its services offered at all workshops except the one at Madisonville Community College.

Please check the locations, dates and agenda and register online at [www.kasfaa.com/hscouns.asp](http://www.kasfaa.com/hscouns.asp). Registration is required. The registration deadline is September 23, but late registration is available.

## Workshop Dates and Locations:

September 27 .....	Gateway Community and Technical College Boone Campus, Convening Center
September 28 .....	Berea College Activities Room, Lowest Level, Alumni Building
October 19.....	University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics, Woodward Hall
October 20.....	University of Louisville President’s Room, The University Club
October 25.....	Murray State University Curris Center, The Stables Room
October 27.....	Madisonville Community College Room 162 (First Floor), John H. Gray Building

## 2016 graduates named Sen. Jeff Green Scholars

More than 1,700 students who graduated from Kentucky high schools in 2016 were designated Jeff Green Scholars.

To earn this honor, a student must have a 4.0 grade point average each year of high school and at least a 28 composite on the ACT. They must also attend a high school whose students are eligible to earn Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) awards.

These students have earned \$2,500 a year in KEES funds to help pay for college. If they keep their grades up in college, they will have \$10,000 to use toward a four-year degree.

Press releases were sent to local newspapers announcing the recipients.

The designation honors the late state Sen. Jeff Green of Mayfield, who served in the Kentucky General Assembly from 1992 to 1997.



# FAFSA Checklist 2017–2018

**NEW**  
filing date  
**October 1,**  
**2016**

Go to **FAFSA.GOV** to create your Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and start your FAFSA.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to apply for federal, state and college-based financial aid. You should file a FAFSA **as soon as possible after Oct. 1, 2016**. Awards are income-based, so applying early does not guarantee you will get an award.

## What you will need:

- FSA ID for **both** the student and the dependent student's parent/stepparent
- Your Social Security number
- Your alien registration number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Your 2015 federal income tax returns, W-2s and other records of money earned.
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

If you are a dependent student, **you will also need most of the above information for your parent(s).**

## How long will it take?



FSA ID:

**20 minutes**

Initial Application:

**30 minutes**

Renewal Application:

**20 minutes**

FAFSA Corrections:

**10 minutes**

**Need help? Call 800.4FEDAID**

# Federal Student Aid ID

Use your FSA ID to confirm your identity when you access your financial aid information and electronically sign your federal student aid documents, including the FAFSA.

Both the student and **at least one parent of a dependent student** will need to create an FSA ID. Go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to create an FSA ID.

**Note: Set up active email accounts for both the student and one parent before applying for the FSA ID.**



## Tips for Step 3:

1. You'll have to set two challenge questions on your own.

Examples: mother/father's middle name/ high school name or mascot, city of birth

2. You'll be asked to provide a significant date of your choice.

Examples: birth, anniversary or another easy-to-remember date.

Apply online at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov).

## Are you dependent or independent?

If you answer "Yes" to any question below, you are considered an independent student.

- Were you born before January 1, 1994?
- As of today, are you married? (Also, answer "Yes" if you are separated but not divorced.)
- At the beginning of the 2017–2018 school year, will you be working on a master's or doctoral program (such as an MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD or graduate certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2018?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were both of your parents deceased, or were you in foster care or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you now or were you, upon reaching the age or majority, an emancipated minor (released from control by your parent or guardian)?
- As determined by a court in your legal state of residence, are you now or were you, upon reaching the age of majority, in legal guardianship (of someone other than your parent or stepparent)?
- At any time on or **after** July 1, 2016, did your high school or school district homeless liaison, the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program **or** a college financial aid administrator determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?



# Financial Aid Application Process

Gather your income tax returns, W-2 forms and other documents needed to show your income when you apply.

Ask your school counselor about financial aid nights.

Speed up the process—go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to create an FSA ID. With an FSA ID you can apply and sign your FAFSA online.

Complete other applications for private, state or school financial aid programs. Watch for deadlines!

Complete the FAFSA and return as soon as possible starting October 1. Apply online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) to find out your family's EFC. Make corrections and resubmit, if necessary.

Send the Financial Aid Office any other documentation needed to verify your application information.

Double-check that the financial aid office at each school you are applying to has all of the information needed to determine your eligibility.

Review your award letter from each school and compare the amount and types of aid that you will receive if you attend.

For more information about college planning services and financial aid programs available to Kentucky students, please call 800.928.8926 or visit [kheaa.com](https://kheaa.com).



# 2017–2018 FAFSA Changes

Apply online starting  
October 1, 2016.

Don't wait until  
January 2017!



**fafsa.gov**  
**800-4-FED-AID**



## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID



\* To be considered for state grants, file the 2017–2018 FAFSA as soon as possible starting October 1, 2016.



School Year Attending College  
July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018

FAFSA Submission Date\*  
Beginning October 1, 2016

Income Information From  
2015



### Create an FSA ID

- Students need to create their FSA ID — a username and password — before they start the FAFSA.
- If the student is dependent, at least one parent must set up an FSA ID and use it to electronically sign the FAFSA. The student and parent will need different email addresses. Students should not use their high school email addresses.
- For help, visit [StudentAid.gov/fsaid](http://StudentAid.gov/fsaid)

### **SIGN YOUR APPLICATION!**

- All students must use their FSA ID to electronically sign their FAFSA.
- For dependent students, **at least one parent** must electronically sign the application using their own FSA ID.
- Failure of **BOTH** required parties to electronically sign will result in an incomplete submission and could cost families thousands of dollars in aid eligibility!
- Watch your e-mail closely for notifications and confirmations.

[fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov)

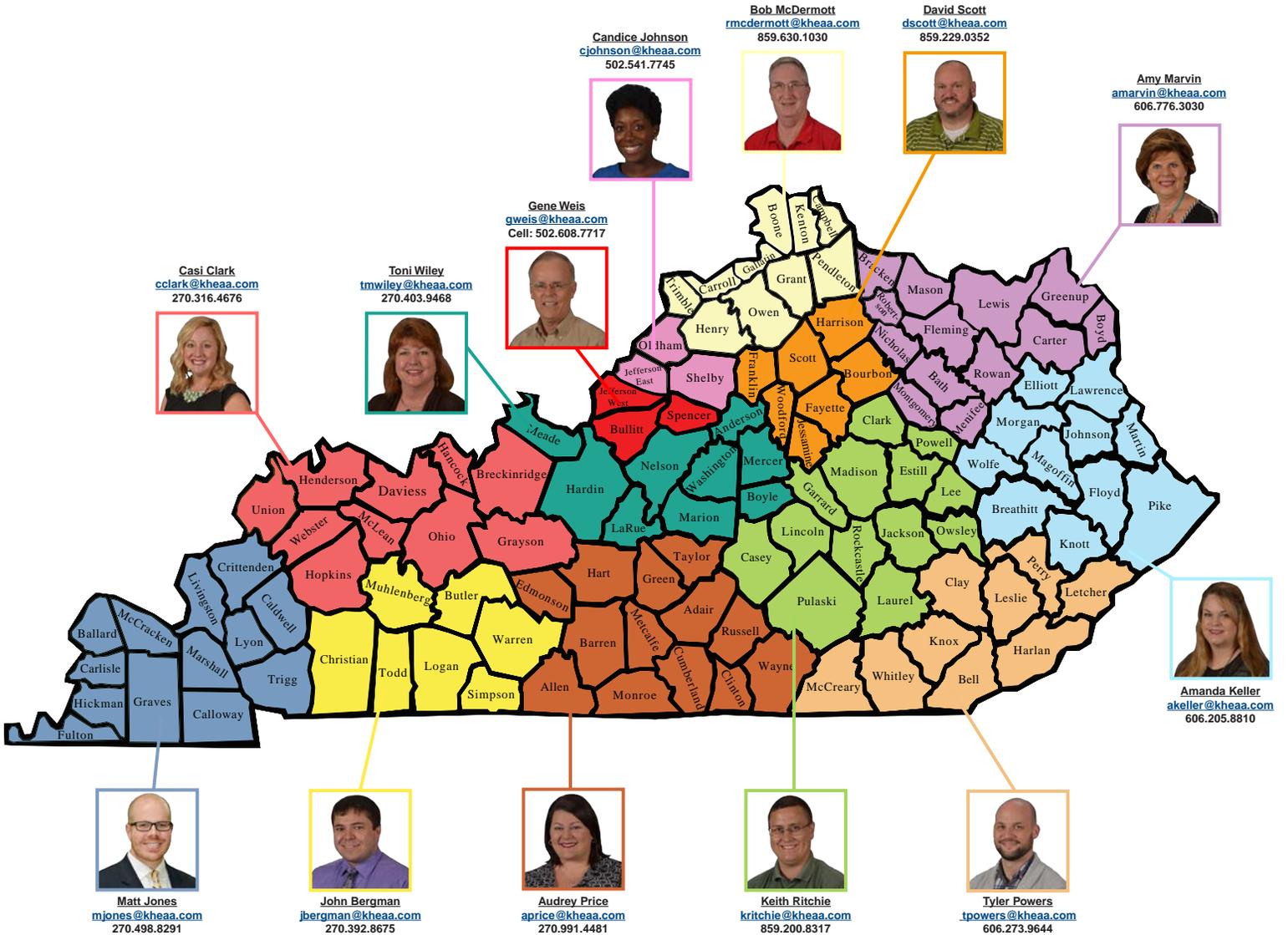
[fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)

*KHEAA can help with college planning and financial aid. Ask us how!*

800-928-8926  
[kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com)



# 2016-2017 KHEAA Outreach Counselors



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