

Daviess County High School student wins scholarship

Isaac Carmon, a junior at Daviess County High School, is the winner of the 2016 KHEAA Promote Your School scholarship essay contest.

He earned a \$500 college scholarship and the opportunity for his school to be featured in future college planning materials published by KHEAA.

Carmon is the son of Amy and Andrew Carmon.

His essay addressed the topic of how his educational plans would impact his community. Carmon wrote that he plans to get a degree in agriculture and that he plans to use that degree “to make agriculture in my community and surrounding area more productive.”

One judge wrote that Carmon’s essay showed he “had a definite vision for his future. It didn’t sound like a Miss America contestant response. He seems like a bright young man with a bright future in front of him.”

KHEAA staff presented Carmon with a certificate at his school. Principal Matt Mason also accepted a certificate honoring DCHS as the Kentucky 2017 Model School, which will be featured in upcoming college planning materials.

The contest, held annually since 2003, was open to all rising Kentucky high school juniors and offered a choice of four essay topics.

Carmon and other DCHS students will participate in a photo shoot at the school. The pictures will be used by KHEAA in free college planning guides for high school students, as well as posters, brochures and other publications.



With this edition:

Included with this *Counselor Connection*: Keeping up with KEES, Road to College Checklist Freshmen and Sophomores and Road to College Checklist Middle Schoolers.

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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Follow these tips to transfer between colleges

As the fall semester winds down, some college students may be thinking about transferring to another school. Some students may be finishing one degree and want to get a higher one. Others find the school they chose isn't the best fit for them, or perhaps family circumstances changed.

Students should talk with the financial aid office at their current school to make sure they don't owe anything or to find out if they get a refund. Also they should talk with the financial aid office at their new school to make sure they've done everything they need to get funding when they transfer.

Also, students should contact the registrar's office at their new school to find out what credits and grades they earned at their current school will transfer.

If they have more questions about transferring, each college should have a contact person who can answer them. Students transferring from a public Kentucky two-year college to a public Kentucky university can find help at www.knowhow2transfer.org/.

The graphic is a promotional poster for KnowHow2Transfer, a service provided by KCTCS. At the top left, the Kentucky state logo is visible. The main title is "KnowHow2Transfer" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title, a green box contains the text "TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL" and a short paragraph: "This is your search and your future. You can compare Kentucky colleges based on criteria most important to you. With a little effort, you will easily find one that fits your academic interests and personal needs." To the right of this text is a photograph of four graduates in caps and gowns. Below the green box, there are four distinct sections, each with a small photograph of a student and a heading. The first section is "Learn how your courses transfer" with a "Next" button. The second is "Chart your bachelor's degree" with a "Next" button. The third is "Questions about the transfer process?" with a "View the Transfer Planning Guide" button. The fourth is "Still not sure?" with a "GO2TRANSFER" button. At the bottom, a row of logos for participating schools is shown: WKU, EKU, NKU, Northern Kentucky University, KCTCS, UK, Murray State University, and University of Louisville.

Public schools can participate in FAFSA Completion Initiative

Public school districts in Kentucky can participate in the FAFSA Completion Initiative, aimed at getting more students to file the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is a major step in going to college because it is the form used to apply for federal and state student aid programs. The more financial aid students receive, the more likely they are to attend and finish college.

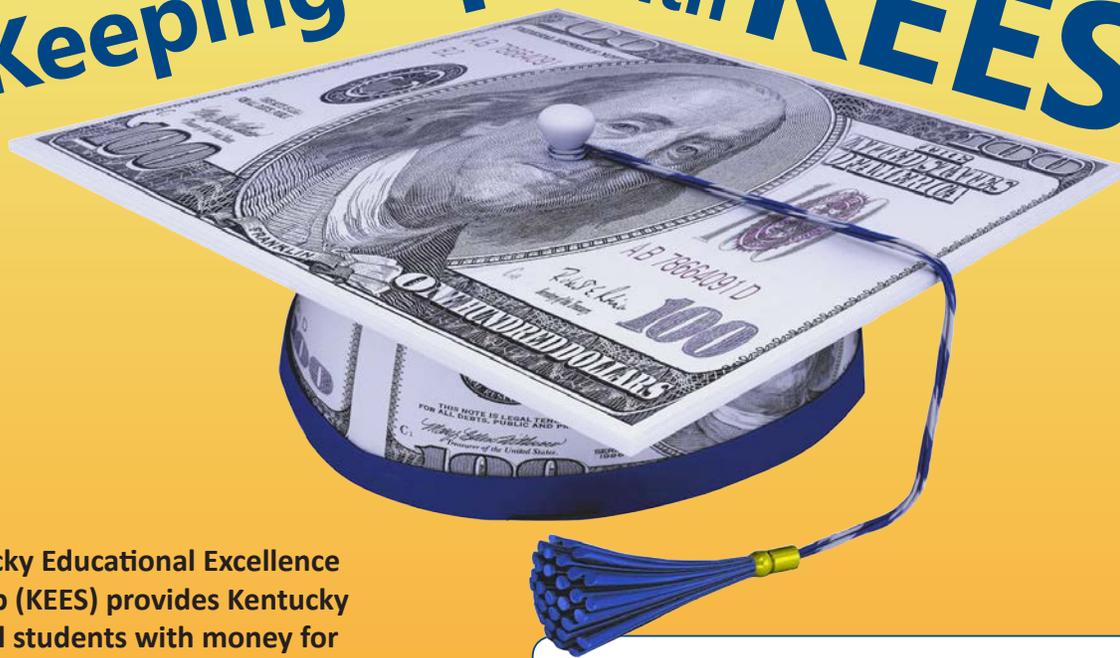
The program lets KHEAA share data with districts about which of their students have begun and completed the FAFSA. KHEAA already receives the data from FAFSAs filed by Kentucky students.

KHEAA will only share a student's name, date of birth, zip code, whether the student has filed a FAFSA and the dates the FAFSA was submitted and processed. It will not share students' Social Security numbers or the financial information that students and parents include on the FAFSA.

Districts with high schools wanting to participate must execute a data sharing agreement with KHEAA. Districts are not required to participate.

For more information, contact KHEAA's state grant coordinator at 800.928.8926, ext. 67393, or studentaid@kheaa.com.

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	Amounts may change based on funding.	
2.75	\$187		
2.70	\$175		
2.60	\$150		
2.50	\$125		

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

Freshmen and 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.
- Talk with your counselor about taking dual credit courses that count for both high school and college credit.
- 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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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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