



Follow these tips to do better on the ACT

Juniors in Kentucky public high schools will take the ACT in March as part of the state's accountability efforts.

"While far from the only measure of a student's potential, the ACT is an important tool to gauge a student's academic readiness if they wish to pursue higher education after completing high school," Gov. Andy Beshear said. "That's true for those who want to earn a credential in a trade or technical field, just as it is for students who plan to pursue a four-year college degree."

These tips may help students do better on the test.

- Most of the ACT is based on reading. The more you read, the better you'll do.
- Take advantage of any free ACT prep courses offered by your school or by local colleges and libraries.
- Take practice tests online or buy practice tests for use at home.
- Familiarize yourself with the sections and directions.
- Get plenty of rest the night before, and eat a good breakfast that morning.
- Remember to take No. 2 pencils and a calculator if your school doesn't provide them.
- Do the questions you can answer easily first, then come back to the harder questions, especially in the math portion.
- Guess if you have no idea what the answer is. Guessing doesn't hurt your score.

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For help with your higher education and financial aid questions, visit www.kheaa.com.

Both students, parents should take FAFSA verification seriously

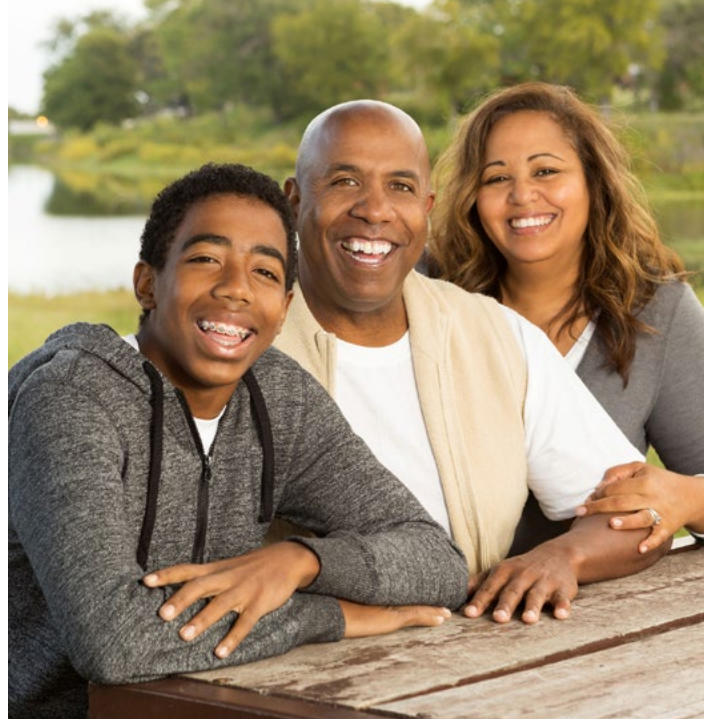
The federal government requires many students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to verify the information they submitted. In many cases, their parents will also have to provide information.

The students requiring verification are chosen by the U.S. Department of Education.

“Higher education and technical training should be accessible to every Kentuckian who wants to further their learning after high school. While it may take additional time, verification ensures that federal financial aid goes to the students who really need help,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “It’s a process that makes sure the information entered on the FAFSA reflects what students and parents reported on their federal income taxes. It helps ensure that the students who need assistance most are able to receive it.”

Students and parents need to take the process seriously. Students chosen for verification must complete the process before they can receive their financial aid. As soon as they are contacted, they should provide any information that is required. Putting it off will only lead to frustration if the process isn’t finished when classes are ready to start.

Colleges may do the verification themselves, or they may contract with an agency to handle the process. KHEAA provides verification services to over 30 schools, including 17 in Kentucky.



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.

KHEAA continues hosting social media outreach

KHEAA Outreach will continue to provide live help in March via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The schedule is:

- **March 2:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Knowing Your Strengths, **Facebook**
- **March 3:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Silver Lining Your Year, **Twitter**
- **March 4:** Empowering Yourself for Success: Stress Management Toolbox, **Instagram**
- **March 9:** Best Practices: College Access, **Facebook**
- **March 10:** Best Practices: Financial Literacy, **Twitter**
- **March 11:** Best Practices: Organizing Yourself in 2021, **Instagram**
- **March 16:** Pot of Gold: Scholarship Party with KHEAA's Lucky Charms, **Facebook**
- **March 17:** Pot of Gold: Grants, **Twitter**
- **March 18:** Pot of Gold: Loans, **Instagram**
- **March 23:** KHEAA Spotlight: Advantage Education Loan, **Facebook**
- **March 24:** KHEAA Spotlight: kheaa.com, **Twitter**
- **March 25:** KHEAA Spotlight: KHEAA's Role in Kentucky Student Aid, **Instagram**
- **March 30:** Myth Busting: Financial Aid, **Facebook**
- **March 31:** Myth Busting: College Life, **Twitter**
- **April 1:** Myth Busting: Admissions, **Instagram**



All sessions begin at 3 p.m. Eastern, 2 p.m. Central.

The links are:

www.facebook.com/KHEAA/

www.twitter.com/KHEAA

www.instagram.com/kheaaoutreach/?hl=en

High school planners

Seniors

February

- Make sure your applications were received on time.
- If you applied for Early Decision and were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.

Research highlights financial benefits of college degrees

New research from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shows that college degrees and other credentials provide a substantial boost to lifetime earnings.

For example, Kentuckians with a four-year bachelor's degree may expect to earn close to \$1 million more during their working lives than those with nothing past a high school diploma.

Even without a degree, having some education after high school adds nearly \$200,000 to the median lifetime earnings of high school graduates. Earning an associate's degree provides another bump of nearly \$200,000.

Even though the overall benefits on lifetime earnings are clear, CPE's research also identified sizable disparities based on gender, race and ethnicity. CPE will release those findings over the coming weeks.

The report can be accessed at <http://cpe.ky.gov/data/publications.html>.

Scholarship Spotlight

Kentucky Association of Government Communicators

KAGC Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a senior at a public high school the year the award is made, plan to study communications or journalism at any postsecondary school and apply online at www.kagc.net/scholarship.

Award: \$500; nonrenewable

Deadline: March 12

Number: 1

Contact: KAGCscholarship@gmail.com with "Question" in the subject line



SAT drops subject tests, optional essay

The College Board, which administers the SAT college entrance exam, will no longer offer subject tests to students in the United States. Students in the U.S. who have signed up for the subject tests this spring will automatically have their registrations canceled and their fees refunded.

In addition, the board will no longer offer the optional essay except in states that require it as part of their accountability standards.

Students can take the SAT with the essay through the June 5 SAT administration. Students who have registered for the essay this spring can cancel that portion at any time, free of charge.

As announced last year, the board will continue to work on developing a digital version of the SAT.

Commissioner of education sets virtual tour dates

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Jason E. Glass will hold virtual tour dates during April and May to hear Kentuckians' views about public education in the state.

Nine evening sessions will be held across the state. Each session will last about 90 minutes. All sessions will start at 6 p.m. local time.

Pre-registration is available for a date you think will work best for you. If you are not sure which date will work for you at this time and would like an invitation for more than one of the sessions, please select all of the dates that may work.

The sessions are scheduled for:

- April 6: Greater Louisville Educational Cooperative
- April 8: West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (Murray)
- April 15: Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (Bowling Green)
- April 20: Southeast/South-Central Educational Cooperative (Richmond)
- April 22: Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (Lexington)
- April 27: Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services (Cold Springs)
- April 29: Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (Shelbyville)
- May 4: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (Hazard)
- May 6: Kentucky Educational Development Cooperative (Ashland)



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State seeks feedback on revised Perkins V goals

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is seeking feedback on revised performance goals proposed by the Perkins V Steering Committee for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, generally known as Perkins V.

KDE wants to revise the goals because many of the indicators have been drastically affected by the ongoing pandemic. This will be the only opportunity for public review and comment on the revised performance goals.

Individuals or organizations may review the revised goals and share feedback and suggestions through 5 p.m. Eastern time April 2. A final set of revised goals to the Kentucky Board of Education.

The **proposed performance goals** are available on KDE's website. Comments and feedback can be sent via email to octestinfo@education.ky.gov.

Graduation, retention rates continue to climb at state's public colleges

Despite a spring semester marred by the pandemic, graduation and retention rates continued to climb at Kentucky's public universities last year

The latest data from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education shows that the six-year graduation rate at four-year public universities reached 56.4 percent in 2019–20. That's up from 55 percent the year prior and from 50.6 percent five years ago. Graduation rates for both low-income and underrepresented minority students (URM) improved.

At the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the three-year graduation rate also surpassed strategic goals, rising to 36.3 percent in 2019–20, compared to 33.9 percent a year ago and 26.8 percent five years ago. Low-income and URM students continued to experience gains at KCTCS, with the graduation rate steadily increasing over the last five years.

The average second-year retention rate at public universities topped out at 80.7 percent, up from 78.2 percent from the previous year. All eight campuses showed gains in retention, with much of the progress occurring among low-income and URM students.

Retention among URM students increased 6.5 percentage points year-over-year, while it rose 4.4 percentage points among students with low incomes.

At KCTCS, the retention rate climbed to 57.1 percent, also with increases among low-income and minority students.



Online security awareness offers protection from cyber thieves

Students need to be aware of the financial dangers that accompany their social media activity.

“As a dad and as governor, I want to keep my kids safe and all of our kids safe. Each new social media platform — Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and whatever else is on the way — unfortunately presents criminals with the opportunity to steal from Kentuckians,” Gov. Andy Beshear said. “Students should be especially cautious of any unsolicited messages asking them to open a file or click on a link.”

Criminals exploit vulnerabilities in social media software and hope that users won't realize that they're being phished. One of the most common ways is to send a link to what appears to be a legitimate website. Never click on a link without making sure that it's real by checking with the company it is supposedly from.

People using social media should also be wary of any kind of online survey that asks them to fill out a long list of information, such as their favorite car or where they were born. The answers can give scam artists all they need to steal someone's identity.

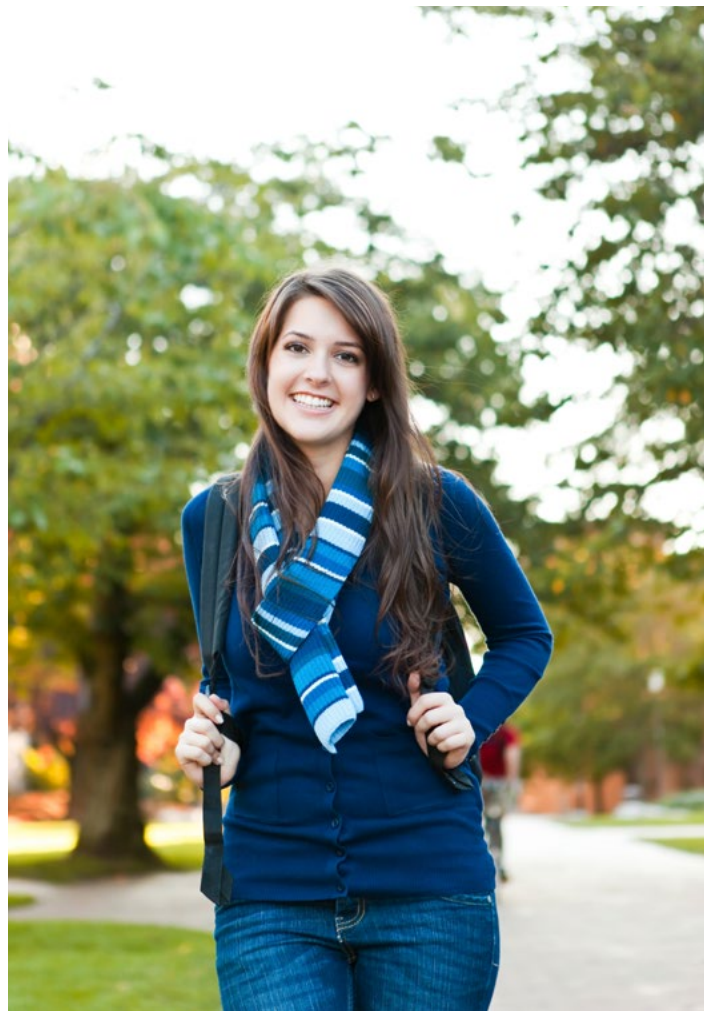
Students may apply for Student Advisory Council

Public school students in grades 10–12 are invited to apply for 14 vacant positions on the 2021–2022 Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council, a group that provides input to the Kentucky commissioner of education.

The Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council is a year-long program. The group will meet with the commissioner and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff to discuss how state decisions affect students throughout Kentucky. Members will also provide feedback on critical issues impacting Kentucky students and schools.

KDE is seeking students for the council who have ideas and insight into how schools and student achievement can be improved. Students who represent the diverse academic, geographic, demographic and school-size variables for Kentucky are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is March 12. Interested students should use this [Google form](#) to apply.



ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Scores Available
April 17, 2021	March 12, 2021	TBD
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021	TBD

SAT National Test Dates

May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021	May 21, 2021
June 5, 2021	May 6, 2021	July 14, 2021