



# KEES

Kentucky Educational  
Excellence Scholarship

*It pays to get good grades*



# 2.5

That's the minimum yearly grade point average (GPA) you have to achieve to earn a Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES). Aim high, because making better grades means more money for college.

Here's how it works: Every year you attend a certified Kentucky high school and earn at least a 2.5 GPA, you earn a KEES award ranging from \$125 (for a 2.5 GPA) to \$500 (for a 4.0 GPA). If you get a 4.0 GPA all four years of high school, you'll have banked \$2,000 for college in Kentucky!

That's not all! You can also earn a bonus for scoring at least 15 on the ACT (or 830 on the SAT's evidence-based reading/writing and math test). Check the chart at right to see how much your highest score is worth. When combined with your GPA awards, that means you can earn up to \$2,500 for each year of college!



# KEES Award Amounts

GPA	Award Amount	ACT Score	Bonus Amount
4.0	\$500	28 or above	\$500
3.9	\$475	27	\$464
3.8	\$450	26	\$428
3.75	\$437	25	\$393
3.7	\$425	24	\$357
3.6	\$400	23	\$321
3.5	\$375	22	\$286
3.4	\$350	21	\$250
3.3	\$325	20	\$214
3.25	\$312	19	\$179
3.2	\$300	18	\$143
3.1	\$275	17	\$107
3.0	\$250	16	\$71
2.9	\$225	15	\$36
2.8	\$200		
2.75	\$187		
2.7	\$175		
2.6	\$150		
2.5	\$125		

After each year of high school, KHEAA will notify you if you have earned a KEES award.



# What you need to know

- **Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) and dual credit courses are weighted on a five-point scale for KEES purposes,** meaning an A is worth more in those courses.
- **Taking both the ACT and the SAT?** The highest ACT composite or SAT evidence-based reading/writing and math score you get on a test you take before you graduate will determine your bonus award.
- **You may use your KEES at any participating college in Kentucky.** A list of participating colleges is available at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).
- **You have to keep making good grades in college.** To keep your full award each year of college, you must earn at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA your first year of college and then have an overall 3.0 cumulative GPA each year after that. “Cumulative” means all the college classes you’ve taken, not just those in the last semester. That’s why it’s important to do your best every semester. If your cumulative GPA drops below a 3.0 anytime after your second year of college, your KEES renewal amount will be based on your progress toward meeting your college’s graduation requirements as well as your grades.

# Supplemental awards available to some AP, IB and CAI students

Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during any year of high school can earn KEES supplemental awards by making qualifying scores on Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) exams. The chart below shows the amounts awarded for each score. There is no limit to the number of supplemental awards an eligible student can earn.

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

## Do the math

Enter your yearly GPAs and award amounts on the lines below, along with your highest ACT score and AP, IB or CAI awards, to predict what you will earn for each year of college.

Freshman GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Sophomore GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Junior GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Senior GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Highest ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_

AP, IB or CAI Awards \_\_\_\_\_

Amount

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Estimated Award = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Other FAQs

## Does my scholarship expire?

You can generally receive the scholarship for up to eight academic terms in an undergraduate degree program. For most degrees, the scholarship must be used within five years of high school graduation.

## Do I have to apply for KEES?

No. All you have to do is study hard and make good grades! Your high school will send your yearly GPA to KHEAA at the end of the school year. You can also check your KEES account online at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

After graduation, you must enroll at an eligible Kentucky college for the fall or spring term. Your college reports your enrollment status to KHEAA after classes begin. If you are enrolled full time, KHEAA will disburse your KEES award, half each term, directly to your college.



## How do I check my KEES account?

You can access your KEES award information through [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com). Select 'Sign In' and enter your user id and password or click on 'Register' to create your user account. That's it!

## How can I fix a KEES award mistake?

If you find incorrect data while checking your KEES account, see your high school counselor. The counselor will report the corrected information to your district KEES coordinator, who will make the necessary changes.

## Can I use KEES out-of-state?

If a major isn't offered in Kentucky, you may be able to use your KEES award at an out-of-state school that participates in the Academic Common Market (ACM). For more information about the ACM, visit the Council on Postsecondary Education's website, [www.cpe.ky.gov](http://www.cpe.ky.gov). (Illinois, Indiana and Ohio schools are not eligible because those states do not participate in the ACM.)

## What if I graduate high school early?

If you graduate after three full years in a certified Kentucky high school, you will earn a KEES Early Graduate award to make up for the missing fourth year. The award amount is averaged from your previous three years of KEES earnings and will be added to your total scholarship.

## What if I attend a dual credit residential high school?

You can earn KEES if you attend or graduate from the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at Western Kentucky University or the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University. Plus your KEES GPA may be higher because of the extra weight allowed for dual credit coursework.

# How to Learn More

If you have more questions about KEES, visit [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com).

Besides KEES, KHEAA also administers need-based grants, scholarships and savings programs.

To find out more about these programs, contact KHEAA at [www.kheaa.com](http://www.kheaa.com) or:

P.O. Box 798  
Frankfort, KY 40602-0798  
Toll free: 800.928.8926  
Fax: 502.696.7373



KEES awards are funded  
by Kentucky Lottery revenue.



KHEAA is an EEO Employer.  
Printed 07/20.