

KEES:

Making the Grade

By Josiah Littrell

Just when you think the only thing you get for graduating from high school is a diploma, you find out that you get paid as well—but only if you go to college.

It's true. The Commonwealth of Kentucky uses proceeds from the state lottery to fund the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program, which awards money to high school students for their academic performance.

GPA Bonus

GPA	Amount
2.50	\$125
2.60	\$150
2.70	\$175
2.75	\$187
2.80	\$200
2.90	\$225
3.00	\$250
3.10	\$275
3.20	\$300
3.25	\$312
3.30	\$325
3.40	\$350
3.50	\$375
3.60	\$400
3.70	\$425
3.75	\$437
3.80	\$450
3.90	\$475
4.00	\$500

So, just how much do you get paid? It all depends on how you do in high school. Awards range from \$125 for a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) to \$500 for a 4.0. Plus, the scholarships are based on how you do in each year of high school, meaning if you had a 2.5 GPA every year for four years then you get a total of \$500.

The scholarships also offer an ACT score bonus. A score of 20 on your ACT means you get an extra \$214 off your college tuition. But wait, it gets better! These scholarships are renewable each year that you're in college. That means if you had \$500 worth of scholarships for your GPA and a \$214 ACT bonus scholarship you would get a total of \$2,856 in scholarships. And these scholarships are accepted at most public and private colleges, universities, community colleges, and technical schools in the state.

Look at the program's website for more information: <http://www.kheaa.com/keeshome.html>. After all, it's free money just for going to high school – you might as well use it. 📖

ACT Score Bonus

ACT Score	Amount	ACT Score	Amount
15	\$36	22	286
16	71	23	321
17	107	24	357
18	143	25	393
19	179	26	428
20	214	27	464
21	250	28+	500

