

State House bill aims to adjust KEES scholarship for inflation

BY ALEXIS BARRETT,
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FOR THE MESSENGER

CALLOWAY COUNTY — Kentucky students may see an increase in financial aid, as state representatives introduced a bill last week aimed at updating the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship.

The KEES program was created in 1998 and awards scholarships to Kentucky students who earn at least a 2.5 GPA for every year in high school — the higher their GPA, the more funds they are awarded. Under the current program, a student who attends four years in a Kentucky high school could earn anywhere from \$500 to \$2,000. Students can also earn a bonus depending on their ACT or SAT score, from \$36 to \$500.

The total sum they accumulate will be awarded each year they attend a Kentucky university — offering a potential maximum of \$10,000.

“It means a lot for our kids,” said Ryan Marchetti, supervisor of instruction at Calloway County Schools. “We know that college tuition is expensive and our kids need any kind of help they can get. And so for our students to get \$1,000 or \$2,000, or even up to \$2,500, for each year that they’re in college is a remarkable help for them.”

“It’s a great program that Kentucky has,” Marchetti continued.

“As long as the legislators continue to support it, continue to fund it, it’s going to help a lot of kids.”

The new bill, sponsored by State Reps. Chad Aull and Deanna Gordon, aims to increase the amount of financial support students may see. The bill would require the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to adjust the amount KEES pay based on the Consumer Price Index, which tracks inflation.

The adjustments must be paid at the most recent calculation for the academic term in which a student utilizes their award. The bill would also permit the authority to adjust supplemental awards and would prohibit a decrease in KEES awards.

“It’s probably time to re-look at how much KEES money we’re giving to kids,” Marchetti said. “A \$500 stipend for a student to go to school in 1998 doesn’t count the same as it does in 2026 with ongoing inflation over the last three decades, right? And the increased cost of college tuition.”

No matter the amount awarded, Marchetti encouraged students to make the most of it: “Make it a

priority to do well in high school, because it pays off once you get to college.”

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Schools supervisor
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“I think sometimes it’s hard to stay motivated in high school and kids don’t see the big picture,” Marchetti added. “But I promise that if they do stay motivated, and they get assignments turned in, and they show up to school, and they stay motivated in the classroom, that KEES money does pay off, and it’s a huge help after they graduate high school.”

Marchetti recommended high schoolers talk to guidance counselor to find out more about KEES money.

For parents, he advised to make sure attendance is strong and grades are prioritized.

“You know, there’s a lot of kids that need that extra support and need that extra motivation from their families, and just know if they’re college bound, if they’re looking at going to a technical school starting their freshman year, they’re earning dollars towards that post secondary degree,” Marchetti said. “So stay involved. Check your kids’ grades. Be in touch with your kids’ school.”

KSP Post 1 to conduct safety checkpoints

HICKORY — To ensure compliance with traffic laws and to promote safety on roadways, Kentucky State Police plan to conduct traffic safety checkpoints in Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Marshall and Trigg counties.

“Traffic safety checkpoints will allow the Kentucky State Police the opportunity to periodically concentrate its efforts in checking for violations of Kentucky traffic and regulatory laws that will ultimately increase the safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth,” KSP explained in a Jan. 8 news release. “The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide for a high visibility public safety service, focusing on vehicular equipment deficiencies, confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles and the

valid licensing of drivers.”

To avoid delays of more than a few minutes, KSP requests drivers encountering a traffic safety checkpoint to have operator’s license, vehicle registration receipt and proof of insurance handy.

In Graves County, KSP Post 1 will conduct checkpoints at the following locations:

- U.S. 45S — at KY 339 Wingo
- U.S. 45S — at KY 1748
- KY 94 — at KY 381 Lynnville
- KY 849 at KY 1684
- KY 303 — at KY 339 (4-way stop)
- U.S. 45 — at KY 121
- KY 94 — at KY 97
- KY 131 — at KY 348

For more information and for a full list of checkpoints, visit the KSP website at kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/post1checkpoints.

GCSO: 2 arrested on drug charges in traffic stop

Two Graves County residents were arrested on Saturday, Jan. 10, after Graves County deputies reported discovering a variety of drugs, paraphernalia, and outstanding warrants during a traffic stop.

According to the GCSO, Gwynth A. Turner and James D. Ramsey, both of Graves County, were arrested following a traffic stop on the KY 121 Bypass. Ramsey was arrested for a first-offense DUI while law enforcement searched the vehicle, uncovering undisclosed amounts of crystal methamphetamine and marijuana.

Turner, 25, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, tampering with physical evidence, possession of marijuana, and possession of

drug paraphernalia. Ramsey, 49, was charged with trafficking in methamphetamine, tampering with physical evidence, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI, and other traffic offenses.

Turner was found to have three active warrants for her arrest, two of which were from the Graves County District Court for contempt charges, and one indictment warrant from the Graves County Circuit Court for first-degree possession of controlled substances and other drug charges. Both Turner and Ramsey were placed in an out-of-county detention center.

Deputy Andrew Prusaczyk and the Mayfield Police Department assisted Deputy Austin Ramage at the scene



Contributed



Leaf Pickup

JANUARY 2026 LEAF PICKUP DATES!

JAN 26 – 30 : SOUTH OF BROADWAY
FEB 2 – 6 : NORTH OF BROADWAY

City workers will make a sweep of the city to pick up bagged leaves only! No trash should be with the leaves, or a citation will be issued. Please place bags at the curb no earlier than 48 hrs before scheduled pick-up day. Thank you.

<http://mayfieldky.gov/>

City of Mayfield

A City of Mayfield Public Works Department graphic shows the dates of bagged leaf pickup in January and early February.

Bagged leaf pickup dates set for January, early February

City workers will make a sweep of the city to pick up bagged leaves only starting Monday, Jan. 26, through Friday, Jan. 30, in the area south of Broadway in Mayfield. Leaf pickup north of Broadway will begin the following week, Monday, Feb. 2, through Friday, Feb. 6.

Residents may place bags at the

curb no earlier than 48 hours before the scheduled pickup day. Bagged leaves may also be dropped off at any time to the Public Works department, 1101 Old Pryorsburg Road in Mayfield.

No trash should be included with the leaves, or a citation will be issued, according to the city.

MISSED PAPER?

Always check your newspaper to make sure it is complete, including the correct number of pages and inserts as listed in the index box on the front page.

If you miss your newspaper or if it is not complete, call 270-247-5223 weekdays.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS (ABRIDGED) THE LIGHTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY

The Lighthouse (Owner) invites bids from qualified, licensed General Contractors for the renovation and re-purposing of an existing two-story motel located at **513 East Broadway, Mayfield, Kentucky**, into a shelter serving women and children.

Bids will be considered only from General Contractors who register as plan holders.

Bid Documents, prepared by **Riley Architect Services, PLLC (Architect)**, will be available on or after **January 14, 2026**, through **Lynn Imaging, Lexington, Kentucky**. For information on obtaining bid documents, contact **Jenna Martin** at jenna@lynnimaging.com or **(859) 255-1021**.

No bidding documents will be available for viewing at the Owner’s, Architect’s, or Engineers’ offices. Technical questions regarding the bid documents shall be directed to mail@rileyarchitect.com, Attention: **Lighthouse Shelter**, Project No. **24-016**.

Project scope includes full renovation of the 2-story **9,438 SF** reinforced concrete and wood framed facility, combining existing rooms into **11 furnished residential units** (9 suites and 2 accessible studios) with upgraded utilities, accessible bathrooms, kitchenettes, and modern HVAC systems for extended residential occupancy. Work also includes shared kitchen/dining, laundry, support spaces, secure check-in, and a perforated steel security wall for life safety and controlled access.

Contract Time: Substantial Completion - **335** calendar days; Final Completion - **30** calendar days thereafter. Liquidated Damages: **\$1,000/day** until Substantial Completion, then **\$500/day** until Final Completion.

Bidder qualifications, insurance requirements, and performance and payment bond requirements are included in the bid documents and must be submitted with the Form of Proposal.

Award will be made by competitive sealed bidding based on best value to the Owner per **KRS 45A.080**. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting: Thursday, **January 29, 2026**, at **1:30 p.m. (local time)** at the **Graves County Public Library - Community Room**.

Bid Due Date: Thursday, **February 12, 2026**, at **1:30 p.m. (local time)**. Bids shall be submitted electronically via the secure **Lynn Imaging** portal. A **5% bid security** is required.

Owner: The Lighthouse

Mailing Address: **513 East Broadway, Mayfield, KY 42066**

Contact: **Danelle Slack, Director** | lighthousemayfieldky@gmail.com