

Team Kentucky Launches 2026 Promote Your School Scholarship Contest

SUBMITTED

On June 30, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) launched the 2026 Promote Your School Scholarship Contest, open to rising juniors at Kentucky public and private high schools. Essay submissions are due Aug. 1, 2026.

The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and a photo shoot at their school, sponsored by KHEAA. The winning student and their school will be featured in the 2027-2028 edition of Getting In, Kentucky's premier college guide.

"The Promote Your School Scholarship Contest is special because it allows us to feature Kentucky students in every edition of Getting In, while supporting them as they pursue their

educational goals," said Executive Director Jo Carole Ellis. "We look forward to honoring a student and a school community every year."

KHEAA recently published the 2026-2027 edition of Getting In, which it has produced annually since 1976. Anthony Lin is featured on the Getting In cover after winning KHEAA's 2025 Promote Your School Scholarship Contest. Lin wrote his essay while attending his former school, Rowan County Senior High School. He is now a current student at The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science High School.

CONTEST GUIDELINES

A school must participate in the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program for one of its students to be eli-

gible to enter.

To be considered for the scholarship, students must submit an essay addressing one of these subjects:

Describe a memorable experience at your school where people came together to achieve a goal or overcome a challenge; or

Discuss how education makes a community stronger.

The essay must have no more than 200 words and cannot mention the student's name, school, mascot, county, community, race, gender, religion or other identifying marker. Judges will consider the use of artificial intelligence to generate an essay as immediate disqualification. Consider adding specific, personal examples in your submission.

The essay topic must be clearly indicated at the top

of the page. The student's name, address and high school must be listed at the bottom of the essay. The student must be a high school junior during the 2026-2027 school year. For contest details, visit kheaa.com/website/contest/rules.

Photos from the winning school will be used in KHEAA publications and on KHEAA websites.

To enter, email your essay to publications@kheaa.com or mail it to KHEAA Publications, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602. KHEAA cannot accept entries submitted through online file-sharing sites.

The winner will be chosen through a blind review process by a committee of KHEAA employees, and will receive the scholarship upon entering college as a

freshman.

Students from high schools that have been featured in the past five years — Rowan County Senior High School, Eminence High School, Madison Southern High School, Frankfort High School and Butler County High School — are not eligible to enter this year's contest.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the merit-based Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program, as well as need-based grants and other programs that help students pay their higher education expenses. Kentucky Lottery funds pay for many of those programs. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit our website; write to KHEAA at P.O. Box 798, Frankfort,

KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926.

KHEAA also administers the KY Saves 529 program, which helps families save for college.

KHEAA's sister agency, Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), offers Advantage Education Loans to help students and their families achieve their higher education goals.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS ELK CREEK PUMP STATION AND FORCE MAIN SPENCER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT SPENCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

7/9/2026 Sealed bids for the following work will be received by Spencer County Sanitation District, 7 W Main St., Taylorsville, KY 40071 until 3:00 PM ET (local time) on Wednesday, 7/29/2026 for furnishing labor and materials and performing all work as set forth in this Advertisement for Bids, General Conditions, Special Conditions, Specifications, and/or Drawings prepared by HMB Professional Engineers, LLC., (502) 695-9800. Contact DBrown@hmbpe.com with any questions. Please submit questions by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, 7/22/2026.

Immediately following the scheduled closing time for the reception of bids, all proposals which have been submitted in accordance with the above conditions will be publicly opened and read aloud outside the County Attorney's Office. The work to be bid upon is described as follows:
- Contract I: Elk Creek Pump Station
o 500 GPM Duplex Pump Station
o Single 10' Diameter Wet Well, approx. 22' deep
o Valve Vault
o Mag Meter Vault
- Contract II: Elk Creek Force Main
o Approx. 16,100 LF of 8" SDR-21 Sewer Force Main
- Alternatives as shown on plans and bid forms

- Time allowed for completion of Base Bid Project is 180 Consecutive Calendar Day

There will not be a pre-bid meeting.

Copies of the Drawings and Contract Documents will be distributed via Lynn Imaging. Interested parties should search for the project name "Elk Creek Pump Station and Force Main" on Lynn Imaging's website. After award of a contract, the General Contractor will be furnished, without charge, two (2) sets of plans and specifications. Subcontractors, manufacturers, and suppliers shall obtain plans and specifications from the General Contractor. Sealed proposals for the Contract shall contain 1 copy of the bidding documents and be clearly marked on the outside of the container as follows: "Sealed proposal for Elk Creek Pump Station and Force Main ATTN: Bill Drury
Not to be opened until 3:00 PM ET (local time), Wednesday 7/29/2026
Contractor Name -- Phone Number"

Bids shall be submitted to Spencer County Sanitation District 7 W Main St., Taylorsville, KY 40071. If forwarded by mail, the sealed envelope containing the proposal must be enclosed in another envelope and mailed to the Spencer County Sanitation District, PO Box 19, Taylorsville, KY 40071 allowing sufficient time for such mailing to reach this address prior to the scheduled closing time for the receipt of proposals.
Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond payable to the Spencer County Sanitation District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the base bid. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date bids are opened. He may, however, withdraw his bid at any time prior to the time and date scheduled for opening of same or any authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified will not be considered and will be returned unopened to the bidder. The Spencer County Sanitation District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive formalities and any bid that is obviously unbalanced may be rejected. Refer to the Spencer County Sanitation District Specifications and Details for ALL governing specifications and details. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Order Nos. 11246 and 11375, which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin. Bidders must COMPLY WITH Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, Section 3 Segregated Facilities, Section 109 and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act. Federal law prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, age, handicap, and sex in this project. Minority firms are particularly encouraged to participate.

LAWN

FROM PAGE B2

matching homeowners with pros at the tap of a button. "Lawn care" was now a full-blown industry with a name of its own.

NASA dropped a piece of data that stopped homeowners in their tracks. By surface area, lawns became the single largest irrigated crop in the United States. It covers 3X more ground than irrigated corn. Americans are pouring water on a crop you can't even eat.

Smelly, noisy awn equipment came under scrutiny. Researchers found that strapping on a commercial gas leaf blower for 1 hour pumps out the same smog-forming pollution as driving a car 1,100 miles. One hour of blowing leaves equals a drive from Los Angeles to Denver.

Water limits turned from mild suggestions into strict laws. Steve Rice, owner of Lawn Kings in Southern California, says this best:

"I've watched clients move away from traditional thirsty turf because maintaining that 'perfect green' is no longer realistic year-round without heavy water use. That's why drought-tolerant landscaping and high-quality synthetic grass have become more common recommendations, especially in areas where watering restrictions are tightening each summer."

Over on the East Coast, in New Jersey, Gaetano Virone runs Environmental Designers Irrigation and promotes smart, precision-zoned irrigation systems.

"Modern droughts have pushed me toward recommending precision-zoned systems paired with soil sensors over broad traditional layouts that struggle under limits," Virone says.

As the environmental costs came into focus, alternatives climbed from fringe to mainstream: Electric mowers, battery-powered tools, organic fertilizers, native plants, clover lawns, and water-wise xeriscaping started to claim a slice of the American yard.

THE SMART LAWN ERA (2020S AND BEYOND)

You thought having a camera on your doorbell was peak suburban living. We're in the era where high-tech computers and AI run your yard.

Robot mowers have graduated from gimmick to one of the fastest-growing areas of the market. The global robot mower market will hit \$2.74 billion in 2026 and is on track to reach \$5.32 billion by 2031, according to Mordor Intelligence.

These little machines use GPS and AI to map your property, dodge your kid's soccer ball, and read the weather. You just sit on the couch and let the robot do the yard work.

You might assume professional landscapers are worried about losing their jobs to a yard Roomba. Well, actually no.

Wilson deals with big

commercial and high-end residential clients, and he sleeps just fine at night. To him, the machines are missing a personal touch.

"The detail work, mechanical edging, string trimming around fence posts and landscaped beds, blowing clippings off hard surfaces — that's where the real value is, and no autonomous unit handles that finishing work reliably yet," Wilson says.

He's right. A robot driving in circles doesn't give you that sharp, country club look.

Wilson says the real mind-blowing tech in this smart lawn care era is hiding in your sprinkler box.

"The biggest technological game-changer for our daily operations has been smart Wi-Fi controllers, specifically the Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller," he says. "By automatically adjusting watering schedules based on local Florida weather data, these devices prevent overwatering and protect lawn health."

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Take a step back, and you realize the sheer scale of this obsession. The landscape services industry reached \$188.8 billion in 2025 and employs 1.3 million people across 635,000 businesses. All that muscle and money exist just to keep the grass mowed and manicured.

The definition of a great yard is changing. The old-school grass monoculture is giving way to a more pragmatic approach. Homeowners ask about clover and native plants. Does that mean the traditional turf is dead? Not a chance.

Tim DiAngelis, owner of Lawn Care Plus, in Boston, sees this hybrid lawn approach working in the New England states.

"I won't pretend it's replacing traditional lawn work, but it's a real conversation now, especially on commercial properties where low-maintenance matters," DiAngelis says.

"Where I've seen it work best is when we blend it into the overall landscape design rather than treating it as a full lawn replacement. Clients who go all-in on alternatives without a plan usually call us back frustrated."

Looking ahead 20 years, Rice also expects homeowners to prioritize survival and function of their lawn over looking like an artificial carpet.

"I expect the standard American front yard will be a hybrid of solutions like native or low-water plants combined with permeable hardscaping and selective turf areas, designed more for usability and climate resilience than uniform grass perfection," he says.

Andrew Day, owner of Advanced Quality Lawn in Akron, Ohio, expects to see homeowners switch to smart, intentional landscaping.

"In 20 years, I think the standard front yard will still

have turf, but less 'decorative carpet' and more functional lawn supported by healthier soil, better grass varieties, tree and shrub care, and targeted pest control," he says. "The winners will be yards designed to survive local conditions, not yards forced to look perfect every week."

KEEP YOUR OWN PIECE OF LAWN HISTORY LOOKING ITS BEST

Now you know the history of grass in America. You know the science. You also know the feeling of spending your entire Saturday sweating over a temperamental edger while your neighbor's robot mower hums quietly in the

background.

Adrian Nita is a former marine navigation officer turned writer. He loves writing about anything and everything related to lawn care and gardening. When he's not writing, you can find him working in his yard, constantly testing new lawn care techniques and products.

LEGAL NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF TAYLORSVILLE, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 07/01/2026 THROUGH 06/30/2027 ORDINANCE No. 480

WHEREAS, an Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 07/01/2026 through 06/30/2027 has been compiled and delivered to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners for the City of Taylorsville, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Commission have reviewed the proposed Budget; have made necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments; and have sought the input of our citizens through direct contact and through the holding of public meetings as required by law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAYLORSVILLE, KENTUCKY as follows:

SECTION I:
That the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1st, 2026, and ending June 30th, 2027, is hereby adopted as follows:

	GENERAL FUND BALANCE	WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	MRA FUND
Restricted Fund Bal	-	4,924,896	50,260
Unrestricted Fund Balance	2,631,823	20,609,131	
TTL Fund Balance	2,631,823	25,534,027	50,260
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
Taxes	650,000		
Licenses & Permits	42,730		
Occupational License	512,600		
Intergovernmental Rev	54,500		16,000
Franchise Fees	108,000		
Charges for Services	156,900	6,925,630	
Developer Adm Fees	1,000		
GRANT PROCEEDS			
School Resource Off.	191,000		
Interest, Rent, Misc.	83,000	279,000	300
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	1,799,730	7,204,630	16,300
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	4,431,553	32,738,657	66,560
APPROPRIATIONS			
General Government	655,200		
Police	1,500,000		
Public Works			
Streets	269,000		
Sanitation	165,000		
Public Utilities		7,204,630	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	2,589,200	7,204,630	
ESTIMATED FUND BALANCE, END OF FISCAL YEAR	1,842,353	25,534,027	66,560

SECTION II:
PUBLIC INSPECTION: The City's proposed budget for Fiscal Year beginning July 1st, 2026 and ending June 30th, 2027 is available for public inspection at Taylorsville City Hall during normal business hours.

SECTION III:
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption, recordation, and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED: by the Board of Commissioners for the City of Taylorsville, Kentucky at a special called meeting of the Commission on this the ___ day of June 2026.

Given First Reading on: The 23rd day of June 2026
Given Second Reading and Passed on: The 25th day of June 2026
Published in The Spencer Magnet on: The 2nd day of July, 2026

APPROVED: *Karen Spencer, Mayor*
Karen Spencer, Mayor
City of Taylorsville, Kentucky

ATTEST: *Stacey Crenshaw*
Stacey Crenshaw, Acting City Clerk
City of Taylorsville, Kentucky

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE BUDGET SUMMARY

An Ordinance Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

Be It Ordained by the Fiscal Court of Spencer County, Kentucky:

Section One. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

01 GENERAL FUND:		
50 General Government		\$ 3,997,110.40
51 Protection to Persons & Property		\$ 2,179,002.00
52 General Health & Sanitation		\$ 398,500.00
53 Social Services		\$ 97,500.00
54 Recreation & Culture		\$ 301,000.00
74 Tax Anticipation Notes		\$ 5,000.00
75 Borrowed Money		\$ 122,323.00
80 Capital Projects		\$ 770,500.00
91 General Services		\$ 364,400.00
92 Contingent Appropriations		\$ 10,000.00
94 Fringe Benefits (Employer's Share)		\$ 983,000.00
95 Distributions to Other Gov't Agencies		\$ 0.00
	General Fund Total:	\$ 9,228,335.40
02 ROAD FUND:		
61 Roads		\$ 1,809,161.00
76 Other County Liabilities		\$ 0.00
77 Leases		\$ 0.00
91 General Services		\$ 45,500.00
92 Contingent Appropriations		\$ 15,000.00
94 Fringe Benefits (Employer's Share)		\$ 349,000.00
	Road Fund Total:	\$ 2,218,661.00
03 JAIL FUND		
51 Protection to Persons & Property		\$ 976,350.00
91 General Services		\$ 2,700.00
94 Fringe Benefits (Employer's Share)		\$ 41,930.00
	Jail Fund Total:	\$ 1,020,980.00
13 SOLID WASTE FUND (WRIS)		
52 General Health and Sanitation		\$ 909,000.00
	Solid Waste Fund Total:	\$ 909,000.00
18 SHERIFF FEDERAL DRUG SEIZURE FUND		
50 General Government		\$ 11,000.00
	Sheriff Drug Seizure Fund Total:	\$ 11,000.00
74 SPENCER COUNTY OPIOID FUND		
52 General Health & Sanitation		\$ 224,000.00
	Opioid Fund Total:	\$ 224,000.00
76 SPENCER COUNTY SB 135 (CLERK) FUND		
50 General Government		\$ 136,000.00
	SB155 Fund Total:	\$ 136,000.00
	2026/2027 Total Budget:	\$13,747,976.40

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: All interested persons and organizations in Spencer County are hereby notified that a copy of the county's proposed budget in full text is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge Executive during normal business hours, or online at www.spencercountyky.gov.

So adopted this 22nd day of June, 2026.
Scott Travis, Spencer County Judge Executive