

KENTUCKY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE BUDGET PROPOSED IN HOUSE BILL 500 AS RELEASED ON JANUARY 27, 2026, AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV
SHOWING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

POSTSECONDARY GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500	FY 2028 HB 500	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Council on Postsecondary Education	\$17.9	\$17.7	\$17.6	-\$0.2	-\$0.1
Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority	\$393.4	\$388.1	\$388.0	-\$5.2	-\$0.2
Eastern	\$84.6	\$73.2	\$71.7	-\$11.4	-\$1.5
Kentucky State	\$35.3	\$29.7	\$29.3	-\$5.5	-\$0.4
Morehead	\$56.4	\$45.2	\$44.7	-\$11.1	-\$0.5
Murray	\$56.2	\$48.5	\$47.6	-\$7.8	-\$0.9
Northern	\$66.0	\$53.9	\$52.5	-\$12.1	-\$1.4
University of Kentucky	\$321.4	\$284.9	\$276.4	-\$36.4	-\$8.6
University of Louisville	\$162.3	\$131.3	\$127.5	-\$31.0	-\$3.8
Western	\$100.1	\$78.4	\$76.6	-\$21.7	-\$1.8
KCTCS	\$196.8	\$176.4	\$171.6	-\$20.4	-\$4.8
Postsecondary Education Performance Fund	\$115.0	\$115.0	\$115.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
TOTAL	\$1,605.4	\$1,442.5	\$1,418.4	-\$162.9	-\$24.0

Performance Funding Note

The Prichard Committee recommends increased performance funding for postsecondary education as a robust policy support for Kentucky’s goal of 60% attainment by 2030. Specifically, the Committee seeks a \$30 million increase for FY 2027 and an additional \$15 million increase for FY 2028, for totals of \$145 million and \$160 million, respectively. The current House Bill 500 continues existing performance funding but does not provide that increased investment.

KCTCS Operating Budget Note

The Prichard Committee recommends KCTCS line item increase of \$9.5 million for FY 2027 and an additional \$30.5 million for FY 2028. Those increases can fully fund the appropriation requests approved by the KCTCS Board of Regents vote last September, moving KCTCS General Fund resources to totals of \$206.3 million for the first year and \$236.8 million for the second year. KCTCS is a powerhouse for the whole state in increasing college attendance and completion and building up workforce skills that matter for both individual and community prosperity. The current House Bill 500 reduces KCTCS funding by \$20.4 million the first year and an additional \$4.8 million the second year.

GENERAL FUND DETAIL ON FINANCIAL AID THROUGH THE KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500	FY 2028 HB 500	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
College Access Program	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$0	\$0
Kentucky Tuition Grant Program	\$46	\$46	\$46	\$0	\$0
Kentucky National Guard Tuition Award Program	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$0	\$0
Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships (KEES)	\$91	\$91	\$91	\$0	\$0
Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program	\$20	\$12	\$12	-\$8	\$0
Dual Credit Scholarship Program	\$13	\$21	\$21	\$8	\$0
Veterinary Medicine Contract Spaces:	\$5.80	\$5.57	\$5.39	-\$0.23	-\$0.17
Optometry Scholarship Program:	\$0.85	\$0.81	\$0.79	-\$0.03	-\$0.03
Teacher Scholarship Program	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Teacher Stipend Program	\$7	\$0	\$0	-\$7	\$0
Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Pilot Program	\$10	\$0	\$0	-\$10	\$0
Innovative Scholarship Pilot Project	\$5	\$0	\$0	-\$5	\$0
Kentucky Rural Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Administration and Support	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$0	\$0
Other KHEAA	\$0.00	\$17.33	\$17.35	\$17.33	\$0.02
Total	\$393.37	\$388.13	\$387.95	-\$5.24	-\$0.18

Dual Credit Expansion Note

Three Prichard Committee recommends a \$33 million annual increase in dual credit and work ready scholarships, doubling that pair of investments. The current House Bill 500 provides no net increase in General Fund dollars for those scholarships, increasing dual credit by \$8 million per year and reducing work ready by a matching amount.