**Lawrence County Schools**

**Topics for Careful Consideration**

**Before Applying for the Early Graduation Certificate**

LCS schools and programs offer a variety of options for our students. Students can access a multitude of Transition Readiness courses and pathways. Early Graduation is one of the options, but should be carefully considered, along with other options, in collaboration with the student, parents, teachers, school counselors, and administrators, and in the development of the Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

Some of the topics to consider include:

* Academics
  + Student meets or exceeds school, district, and state assessment proficiency benchmarks (MAP, K-PREP, etc.) and college readiness exam benchmarks established for placement in credit-bearing courses without the need for remediation (ACT, etc.).
  + Student has considered available options at the high school (AP, Dual Credit, CRAFT Academy, Gatton Academy, Career and Technical Center options, etc.)
  + Student has considered Transition Readiness options and certifications for fourth year
  + Student has a clear plan for after graduation
* Social/Emotional
  + Student is an independent and self-motivated worker and learner
  + Student is comfortable and confident in working with older peers
  + Student can communicate and collaborate easily
  + Student is willing to forego four years of athletic and club participation
  + Student is willing to forego special events (prom, banquets, class trips, etc.)
  + Student has good record of attendance, grades, and behavior
* Financial
  + Student has investigated scholarship options and availability for early graduates vs. traditional graduates
  + Student has financial plan for college costs (tuition, books, housing, meals, transportation, etc.)
  + Student has compared 3-year KEES funds with potential 4-year KEES funds with improved GPA
  + Student has compared college costs with HS options (tech center certificates, AP, Dual Credit, etc.)
* Other
  + Student has investigated college athletic eligibility, if desired
  + Student has communicated with college admissions to determine pre-admissions and major requirements of intended post-secondary institutions (ACT, world language, science/math, community service, etc.) and to discuss implications of Early Graduation