**Overview**

The Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative in partnership with regional business, industry, public schools, and other supporters offer the opportunity to participate in the *West Kentucky Work Ethic Seal Initiative*. Additional support from stakeholders in economic development agencies, elected offices, and workforce development also ensures this initiative will assist counties in earning the status

as a certified *Work Ready Community.*

Students earning the *WKY Work Ethic Seal* will have an advantagewhen seeking future employment. Likewise, both existing and potential employers will also be able to easily identify a pool of employees and students with a successful work ethic.

Furthermore, by participating in the WKY *Work* *Ethic Seal Initiative,* business and industryagree to grant qualified students an interview when job openings occur.

**Vision**

To create a *WKY Work Ready Region* by ensuring

all Western Kentucky students are prepared with the skills needed for a successful transition from school to work.

**Mission**

To provide new/existing employers with a large work-ready pool of applicants from our coalition of Western Kentucky communities that are seeking the *Work Ready Community Status* designation through teaching soft skills and the importance of a strong work ethic.

**Criteria & Participation**

Participation in the *WKY Work Ethic Seal* 

*Initiative* is voluntary and available to all

students in participating WKEC districts.

The *WKY Work Ethic Seal Initiative* has specific

criteria to identify students by academics,

discipline, high attendance, soft skills and

participation in extra-curricular activities that

distinguishes them from their peers.

In order to earn the *WKY Work Ethic Seal &*

*Certificate,* students must apply and achieve

the following by of the second semester of

his or her senior year in high school:

* Maintain *Attendance* that at a **minimum**:
  + complies with all local school board policies and requirements
  + has no more than 2 unexcused absences during the senior year
  + 96% or above during his or her senior year

* Earn a minimum 2.0 or higher Cumulative

GPA for the entire high school career and/or silver level Work Keys/industry certificate-KOSSA

* Have zero major disciplinary referrals during the senior year.
* Be involved in at least 2 activities listed below during his or her senior year:
* organized team sport/club
* extra-curricular program
* part-time job/co-op/internship
* community service
* leadership activity/Jr. ROTC
* dual credit coursework/advanced coursework outside the school day
* Earn a “*Soft Skills Certificate*” from their local district which includes instruction on:
  + attitude, ethics, careers, attendance and punctuality, communication, critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving, leadership, credentialing, success interviews, and resume development.

(Possible soft skills resources: WIN Software, professional effectiveness skills explained by Madisonville Comm. College, & [http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills](http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/youth/softskills/Communication.pdf) )

**Recognition**

Upon completion of the criteria, students will be awarded and/or recognized as follows:

* receive a certified “Letter of Recommendation”
* publicly recognized by WKEC and local districts
* receive *WKY Work Ethic Seal* certificate
* acknowledgement of achievement by all participating employers and granting interviews to any qualified students when openings are available