**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