

(5) "EDUCATIONAL SERVICE" MEANS SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES.

(5) (6) "Eligible institution" means an accredited college or university that has a program of undergraduate or graduate studies that would certify the recipient to teach in this State in an area of critical shortage and which is:

(i) Authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and

(ii) Approved by the State Board of Education.

(6) (7) "Nondegreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant awarded under this section who does not possess an undergraduate or graduate degree in an area of critical shortage.

(7) (8) "Public school" means a school in the public elementary and secondary education system in this State.

(8) (9) "Service obligation" means to teach in the State in an area of geographic or critical shortage in a public school.

(10) "TEACH" INCLUDES PROVIDING AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.(11) "TEACHER" INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

(9) (12) "Teacher recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant awarded under this section employed or certified as a teacher in a field which is not an area of critical shortage.

(10) (13) "Tuition assistance" means any funds provided for the cost of basic instructional charges, fees, room, board, or other related educational expenses.

~~(b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants to be known as the Sharon Christa McAuliffe Memorial Teacher Education Award may be awarded as teacher education tuition assistance grants.~~

~~(2) The Office shall award annually to eligible applicants tuition assistance grants for the education of persons to:~~

~~(I) [teach] TEACH in areas of critical or geographic shortage; OR~~

~~(II) PROVIDE SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR AUDIOLOGY SERVICES.~~

~~(3) The recipient of a teacher education tuition assistance grant shall use the award at an eligible institution.~~

~~(4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations to determine academic criteria for selection of tuition assistance recipients from eligible applicants.~~

(e) A recipient of a tuition assistance grant shall: