

appropriated annually for ~~Educational Assistance Grants~~ certain student financial assistance programs to be allocated to institutions of higher education in the State to fund Educational Excellence Awards; and generally relating to funding for Educational Excellence Awards.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 18–307

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

18–307.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Office shall compile and certify lists for the entire State that rank applicants by financial need.

(b) All funds for annual initial grants shall be awarded from the statewide list on the basis of greatest financial need.

(c) On or before May 1 of each year, the Office shall send each Senator and each Delegate a list of individuals in each legislative district to whom Educational Excellence Awards are awarded.

(d) (1) (I) ~~If State funds are available for this purpose, institutions]~~ ~~INSTITUTIONS~~ of higher education in the State may provide Educational Excellence Awards to students who otherwise meet the requirements for receiving an Educational Excellence Award but who apply after the March 1 deadline or have other extenuating circumstances.

~~(II) AT LEAST \$3 MILLION OF THE TOTAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION EACH YEAR THE COMMISSION SHALL TRANSFER UP TO AT LEAST \$2 MILLION OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER § 18–107(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

(2) The Commission shall:

(i) Establish guidelines for the awarding of Educational Excellence Awards by the institutions of higher education to the students; and

(ii) Adopt regulations necessary for the implementation of this subsection.

(3) (i) The Commission shall allocate available funds to institutions of higher education based on the proportion of State residents enrolled at each institution who receive federal Pell Grants.