

IN ADVANCE OF EXPENDITURE AND MAY BE PAID ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. SUCH AMOUNTS AS ARE PROVIDED FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE GENERAL STATE SCHOOL FUND AND NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 124 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROPRIATION BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

168 169.

(a) *Regional Resource Centers*

(1) *Any three or more public library systems outside the standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the United States Bureau of the Census, acting through their several boards of library trustees, may request the State Department of Education to establish and maintain a regional resource center for the purpose of providing through mutual cooperation and coordination books, information, and other material and service resources which an individual library could not adequately provide by itself THE CRITERIA FOR A REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:*

(I) *A REGION SHOULD COMPRISE THREE OR MORE COUNTIES AND HAVE A POPULATION OF AT LEAST 100,000 PERSONS AND PREFERABLY 200,000.*

(II) *WHENEVER POSSIBLE THE STRONGEST EXISTING LIBRARY IN THE AREA SHOULD BE SELECTED AS THE REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER.*

(III) *THE REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER SHOULD BE SO LOCATED AS TO BE OF GREATEST SERVICE TO ALL POINTS IN THE REGION.*

(2) *Any library designated as a regional resource center shall be chosen by the several boards of library trustees of participating library systems and the State Department of Education. The board of trustees of the designated library shall agree to perform as many of the services provided for in subsection (a) (3) of this section, as necessary to meet the standards and criteria of the State Department of Education. The criteria for a regional resource center include the following:*

(i) *A region should comprise three or more counties and have a population of at least 100,000 persons and preferably 200,000.*

(ii) *Whenever possible the strongest existing library in the area should be selected as the regional resource center.*

(iii) *The regional resource center should be so located as to be of greatest service to all points in the region.*

(iv) *It should build toward a collection of not less than 100,000 currently useful adult titles.*

(3) *The regional resource center shall render as many of the following services for the libraries in the region as required by the standards and criteria of the State Department of Education:*