

There is a distinguished scholar program of 300 scholarships to be awarded by the State Scholarship Board to residents of the State in the manner provided in this subtitle for use at postsecondary institutions of higher education in the State.

18-1102.

(a) The Board shall annually select the 300 secondary school students who have the greatest potential for academic success in higher education as determined by criteria established by the Board and offer scholarships to these students to be used at any Maryland postsecondary institution of their choice, if they meet the following qualifications:

(1) Qualify academically as follows:

(i) Have a secondary school transcript indicating an overall academic grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent grade point average; ~~-(or)-~~

(ii) Are a finalist of the National Merit Scholarship Program or the Achievement Scholarship Program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; OR

(iii) HAVE SUPERIOR CREATIVE TALENT OR SKILL IN ART, MUSIC, DANCE, OR THE THEATER, AS DETERMINED BY AN AUDITION OR PORTFOLIO REVIEW PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD.

(2) Have matriculated at a postsecondary educational institution in the State.

(3) Qualify as a Maryland resident.

(b) ~~The--State--Scholarship--Board--shall--select--the recipients--as--follows:~~

~~(1) At least 150 of the 300 awards shall be granted to superior academic achievers whose secondary school transcripts through the junior year indicate an overall academic grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent grade point average.~~

~~(2) No more than 150 of the 300 awards may be granted to finalists of the National Merit Scholarship Program or the Achievement Scholarship Program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.~~

~~(3) At least 15 of the 300 awards shall be granted to superior achievers in art, music, dance, or the theater.~~