

(1) ADOPT A TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES YEAR-LONG ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO TEACHERS THROUGH A TEACHER CONSULTING PROGRAM IN WHICH CONSULTING TEACHERS ARE FULLY TRAINED AND APPLY RIGOROUS TEACHING STANDARDS; AND

(2) IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF SERVICE.

~~(B) THE PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE IN DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ADVISABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO COUNTY BOARDS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A TEACHER SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TEACHER RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.~~

~~(C) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:~~

~~(1) PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS; AND~~

~~(2) CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IF MONEY BECOMES AVAILABLE, THE GOVERNOR INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR GRANTS FOR TEACHER SUPPORT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

18-703.

~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(2) "Area of critical shortage OR NEED" means:~~

~~(I) [an] AN academic field or educational service identified by the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g) of this section as having projected employment vacancies which substantially exceed projected qualified graduates;~~

~~(II) A TITLE I SCHOOL; OR~~

~~(III) A PUBLIC SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, CORRECTIVE ACTION, OR RESTRUCTURING UNDER THE ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD.~~

~~[(3) "Area of geographic shortage" means a geographic area of the State identified by the State Board of Education as less able than others in the State to satisfy the need for public school teachers in an academic field identified for at least 3 years as an area of critical shortage.~~

~~[(4)] (3) "Degreed recipient" means a recipient of a tuition assistance grant under this section who possesses an undergraduate or graduate degree.~~

~~[(5)] (4) "Educational service" means speech language pathology or audiology services.~~