

~~[(6)] (5) "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.~~

~~[(7)] (6) "Nondegree 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.~~

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

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

~~[(10)] (9) "Teach" includes providing an educational service.~~

~~[(11)] (10) "Teacher" includes an individual who provides an educational service in a public school.~~

~~[(12)] (11) "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.~~

~~[(13)] (12) "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 teach in areas of critical [or geographic] shortage OR NEED.~~

~~(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.~~

~~(c) A recipient of a tuition assistance grant shall:~~

~~(1) Qualify as follows:~~

~~(i) Have earned [60] 30 credits of undergraduate collegiate education and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in a program leading to certification to teach in an area of critical [or geographic] shortage OR NEED and be~~