

fulfills the service obligation shall be forgiven, for the purposes of this subtitle, at a rate of 1 year for each year that the recipient performs the service obligation.

~~18-703.~~

~~(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.~~

~~(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 and be selected by the Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on academic criteria, not limited to standardized tests, established by the State Board of Education; or~~

~~(ii) Have an undergraduate or graduate degree and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage and be selected among qualified applicants on a competitive basis based on academic criteria established by the State Board of Education; or~~

~~(iii) Persons who are already teachers shall:~~

~~1. Be nominated by the superintendent of schools of the system in which the person teaches or intends to teach; and~~

~~2. Enroll as a student in courses required for teacher certification in an academic area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of teachers; and~~

~~3. Be selected by the Office on a competitive basis among qualified applicants based on criteria established by the State Board of Education;~~

~~(f) (1) A nondegreed recipient may renew an award for [1 year] 2 YEARS if the recipient:~~

~~(i) Remains an undergraduate student in an area of critical or geographic shortage; and~~

~~(ii) Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and advances in academic standing at least 1 year for each year for which an award is renewed.~~