

APPLICANTS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS BASED ON ~~ACADEMIC~~ CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT EXCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICANT'S GRADE POINT AVERAGE; OR

[(iii)] (IV) 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;

(2) Sign a letter of intent as follows:

(i) A nondegreed recipient who is not already a teacher shall be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in an undergraduate program necessary for teacher education; [or]

(ii) A degreed recipient shall enroll in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical or geographic shortage; or

(iii) A recipient who is already a teacher shall sign a letter of intent to enroll in an eligible institution as a student in a teacher certification program in an area in which there is a critical or geographic shortage of teachers;

(3) Perform the service obligation upon completion of required studies;

(4) Maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and advance in academic standing at least 1 year in each year in which an award is renewed; and

(5) Satisfy whatever other criteria the Office and the State Board of Education establish.

(d) Grants to teacher recipients may not be used to supplant retraining efforts by local boards of education.

(e) (1) For a full-time student, the annual amount of tuition assistance shall be equal to the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board, not to exceed the lesser of costs incurred for the program required for teacher certification in an area of critical or geographic shortage or the sum of these costs for a full-time undergraduate in-State resident student at the 4-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

(2) For a part-time student, the amount of an award may not exceed the applicable cost of tuition and mandatory fees for a comparable undergraduate