

Article - Education

10-101.

(k) "Regional higher education center" means a higher education facility in the State that:

(1) **[Includes]** IS OPERATED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE OR A NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OPERATING UNDER A CHARTER GRANTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INCLUDES participation by two or more institutions of higher education in the State;

(2) Consists of an array of program offerings FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPROVED TO OPERATE IN THE STATE BY THE COMMISSION OR BY AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT SPECIFICALLY SATISFIES THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN § 10-212(B) OF THIS TITLE;

(3) Offers multiple degree levels; and

(4) Is either **[affiliated with an institution of higher education]** APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE IN THE STATE or is established by statute.

11-105.

(b) (7) The Commission HAS AUTHORITY TO APPROVE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS TO OPERATE IN THE STATE AND has statewide coordinating responsibility for regional higher education centers.

(d) (1) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS TO OPERATE IN THE STATE; AND

(II) With respect to the regional higher education centers, the Commission:

[(i)] 1. May require submission of strategic plans in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Commission;

[(ii)] 2. May provide grants to regional higher education centers for ongoing operating expenses and lease payments if consistent with the State Plan for Higher Education and the approved mission statements of the regional higher education centers;

[(iii)] 3. Shall administer programs of State support and financial assistance for the regional higher education centers;

[(iv)] 4. Shall assure that courses and programs offered are within the scope of the approved missions of the regional higher education centers AND SPECIFICALLY SATISFY THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN § 10-212(B) OF THIS ARTICLE; and

[(v)] 5. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, shall assure that State funds for the regional higher education centers are spent prudently and in accordance with State guidelines.