

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 [in an area of critical shortage] and be enrolled in or sign a letter of intent to enroll in courses leading to certification to teach in an area of critical 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. Have a nomination from the superintendent of schools of the system in which the person teaches or intends to teach; and

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

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

(3) 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 at an eligible institution as a full-time 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 a field of critical shortage; or

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

(4) Furnish a surety bond to this State with security satisfactory to the State Scholarship Board, that upon completion of undergraduate studies if not a teacher, or completion of certification studies if already a teacher, the recipient shall teach in this State for 1 1/2 years for each year that the recipient has a tuition assistance award;

(5) 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

(6) Satisfy whatever other criteria the State Scholarship Board and the State Board of Education establish.