

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

18-1102.

(a) The Administration shall annually select the [300] 350 secondary school students who have the greatest potential for academic success in higher education as determined by criteria established by the Administration and offer a scholarship to each of these students to be used at any Maryland postsecondary institution of the student's choice, if the student meets the following qualifications:

(1) Qualifies academically as follows:

(i) Has a secondary school transcript indicating an overall academic grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent grade point average;

(ii) Is a finalist of the National Merit Scholarship Program or the Achievement Scholarship Program administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; or

(iii) Has a superior creative talent or skill in art, music, dance, or the theater, as determined by an audition or portfolio review process established by the Administration;

(2) Has matriculated at a postsecondary educational institution in the State; and

(3) Qualifies as a Maryland resident.

(b) (1) At least 150 of the [300] 350 awards shall be granted to superior academic achievers whose secondary school transcripts through the junior year indicate an overall academic grade point average of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent grade point average.

(2) At least 2 recipients who meet the qualifications specified under this section shall be selected from each county of the State.

(c) (1) (I) [The] SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE scholarship award shall be in the amount of [\$2,400] \$3,000 for use in the next ensuing academic year.

(II) A RECIPIENT'S AWARD MAY NOT EXCEED THE COST OF EDUCATION ATTENDANCE AS DEFINED IN ~~§--18-1104--OF--THIS~~ SUBTITLE § 18-1302(G) OF THIS TITLE.