

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

Article - Education

16-403.

(b) (7) (i) A board shall be eligible for a wealth factor component if:

1. The county share for the previous fiscal year divided by the total assessed valuation of real property in the supporting county or region is greater than or equal to the statewide median; and

2. The per capita wealth of the supporting county or region is less than 80% of the statewide per capita wealth or the total assessed valuation of real property in the supporting county or region is less than \$1,000,000,000.

(ii) The wealth factor component shall be determined by dividing and distributing equally among eligible boards 1/2% of the total State operating fund.

(iii) For purposes of this section, per capita wealth is wealth divided by population.

(iv) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING THE WEALTH FACTOR COMPONENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, STATEWIDE PER CAPITA WEALTH INCLUDES ONLY THOSE COUNTIES THAT SUPPORT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR COLLEGES.

(v) In determining the eligibility of a board OF A REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE for a wealth factor component, the wealth, population, and assessed valuation of real property of the supporting counties shall be considered in the aggregate as a region.

(8) (i) Any portion of the total State operating fund not distributed as direct grants shall be available for challenge grants.

(ii) The purpose of the challenge grant component is to address statewide initiatives and economic development needs.

(iii) The challenge grants shall be distributed in amounts determined by the [State Board for Community Colleges] COMMISSION to eligible boards based upon criteria developed by the [Maryland Higher Education] Commission [and] IN COOPERATION WITH the Department of Economic and Employment Development.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1993.

Approved April 26, 1993.