

(ii) Where 2 or more counties establish a region to support a regional community college, the board of regional community college trustees.

(3) "Community college" means a community college established under this title but does not include Baltimore City Community College.

(4) "County share" means the total amount of money for operating funds to be provided each fiscal year to a board by the county that supports the community college or colleges or, in the case of a regional community college, the total amount of money for operating funds to be provided each fiscal year to the board by all counties that support the regional community college.

(5) "Direct grants" means the sum of the following components of the State share:

- (i) Fixed costs;
- (ii) Marginal costs;
- (iii) Size factor; and
- (iv) Wealth factor.

(6) "Full-time equivalent student" is the quotient of the number of student credit hours produced in the fiscal year 2 years prior to the fiscal year for which the State share is calculated divided by 30, as certified by the Maryland Higher Educational Commission.

(7) "Population" means population as determined for purposes of calculating the State share of the library program using the definition in § 23-401 of this article.

(8) "Region" means the counties supporting a regional community college established under Subtitle 3 of this title.

(9) "State share" means the amount of money for community college operating funds to be provided each fiscal year to a board by the State.

(10) "Student credit hours" means student credit hours or contact hours which are eligible, under the regulations issued by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, for inclusion in State funding calculations.

(11) "Total State operating fund" means the sum of community college State appropriations for direct grants and for challenge grants.

(12) "Wealth" means wealth as determined for purposes of the State aid calculated under § 5-202 of this article.

(b) (1) The total State operating fund per full-time equivalent student to the community colleges for each fiscal year as requested by the Governor shall be not less than an amount equal to the total State operating fund per full-time equivalent student in the previous fiscal year.