

~~(5) PAIR BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN REPLICATING EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS; AND~~

~~(6) STRENGTHEN SKILLS AND OPTIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PLANNING FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS.~~

SUBTITLE 2A. EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

8-2A-01.

(A) THERE IS AN EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO AWARD GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTY BOARDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS.

8-2A-02.

EACH COUNTY BOARD THAT RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ARTICULATED PROGRAMS FOR THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS IN GRADES K THROUGH 12 AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THOSE STUDENTS;

(2) PROVIDE STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES, INCLUDING TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND GUIDANCE PERSONNEL; AND

(3) PROVIDE AND DISSEMINATE TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS.

8-2A-03.

THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

(1) ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR:

(I) THE AWARDING OF GRANTS UNDER THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM; AND

(II) THE EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS; AND

(2) CONDUCT PERIODIC MONITORING OF THE DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS IN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT RECEIVE THE GRANTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that funding for the provisions of this Act shall be provided from