

(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.

[(b)](C) (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:

(i) In Fiscal Year 1998, not less than an amount equal to 21% of the State's General Fund appropriation per full-time equivalent student to the 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State as designated by the Commission for the purpose of administering the Joseph A. Sellinger Program under Title 17 of this article in the previous fiscal year;

(ii) In Fiscal Year 1999, not less than an amount equal to 22% of the State's General Fund appropriation per full-time equivalent student to the 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State as designated by the Commission for the purpose of administering the Joseph A. Sellinger Program under Title 17 of this article in the previous fiscal year;

(iii) In Fiscal Year 2000, not less than an amount equal to 23% of the State's General Fund appropriation per full-time equivalent student to the 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State as designated by the Commission for the purpose of administering the Joseph A. Sellinger Program under Title 17 of this article in the previous fiscal year;

(iv) In Fiscal Year 2001, not less than an amount equal to 24% of the State's General Fund appropriation per full-time equivalent student to the 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State as designated by the Commission for the purpose of administering the Joseph A. Sellinger Program under Title 17 of this article in the previous fiscal year; and

(v) In Fiscal Year 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter, not less than an amount equal to 25% of the State's General Fund appropriation per full-time equivalent student to the 4-year public institutions of higher education in the State, as designated by the Commission for the purpose of administering the Joseph A. Sellinger Program under Title 17 of this article in the previous fiscal year.

(2) The State share shall be distributed to each board and shall be limited by the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

(3) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the total State share for each board shall be the sum of:

- (i) The fixed costs component;
- (ii) The marginal costs component;
- (iii) The size factor component; and
- (iv) A hold harmless component.