

select secondary school students who have the greatest potential for academic success in higher education and offer a scholarship to each student to be used at a Maryland higher education institution of their choice, if the recipient 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 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent grade point average in core curriculum courses after completion of the first semester of the senior year; ~~AND~~

(ii) Intends to enroll as a full-time student in an academic program as designated by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; ~~and~~

(iii) Has graduated from a secondary school ~~in Maryland;~~

(2) Is a Maryland resident AND WAS A MARYLAND RESIDENT AT THE TIME OF GRADUATING FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL;

(3) Is accepted for admission in a regular undergraduate program at a Maryland higher education institution in the State;

(4) Begins attending an eligible Maryland higher education institution within 2 years of completing high school or, failing to do so, provides evidence satisfactory to the State Scholarship Administration of extenuating circumstances;

(5) Agrees to the conditions provided in subsection (c) of this section; and

(6) Accepts any other conditions attached to the award and satisfies any additional criteria the Commission may establish.

(b) (1) The annual scholarship award shall be in the amount of \$1,000 for a student enrolled at a 2-year eligible institution or \$3,000 for a student enrolled at a 4-year eligible institution.

(2) If accepted by the eligible student, each award may be renewed on an annual basis for a maximum of 3 years after the original award if the recipient:

(i) Remains a resident of the State;

(ii) Attends a Maryland higher education institution in the State;

(iii) Is enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and takes at least 12 semester hours of courses each semester or its equivalent as determined by the Administration;

(iv) Maintains a 3.0 grade point average on an academic year basis or, failing to do so, provides evidence satisfactory to the Administration, of extreme extenuating circumstances;

(v) Is making satisfactory progress toward a degree as determined by the institution; and