

(4)

(C) (1) A COUNTY BOARD APPLYING FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A PLAN FOR FUNDING TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

(2) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO PLANS TARGETING FUNDS TO SCHOOLS IN WHICH 40% OF THE STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS.

(3) IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO PLANS TARGETING FUNDS TO SCHOOLS IN WHICH:

(I) 50% OR MORE OF THE TEACHERS HAVE 5 YEARS OR LESS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE; OR

(II) STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SCORES ON LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS ARE AT OR BELOW A SATISFACTORY LEVEL.

(D) THE TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED \$5,000,000.

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[(b) This section does not prohibit the State Board from adopting bylaws to provide for a probationary period of employment of 2 years or less.]

(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT OF A ~~TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, SUPERVISOR, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEE~~ IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL ~~BE FOR~~ COVER A PERIOD OF ~~3~~ 2 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF EMPLOYMENT AND SHALL CONSIST OF A 1-YEAR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT THAT MAY BE RENEWED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

(2) (I) A PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR A CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY BE EXTENDED FOR A THIRD YEAR FROM THE DATE OF EMPLOYMENT IF THE CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR TENURE AT THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR BASED ON ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA AND THE EMPLOYEE DEMONSTRATES A STRONG POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT.

(II) IF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD OF A CERTIFICATED EMPLOYEE IS EXTENDED AS PROVIDED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, A MENTOR SHALL BE ASSIGNED TO THE EMPLOYEE AND THE EMPLOYEE SHALL BE EVALUATED AT THE END OF THE THIRD YEAR BASED ON ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA.

(2) (3) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF ~~PARAGRAPH (1)~~ PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND DEFINE THE SCOPE OF A MENTORING PROGRAM THAT WILL BE ALIGNED WITH THE ~~3-YEAR~~ 2-YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND THE 1-YEAR EXTENSION AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.