

(b) (1) In this subsection, "full-time equivalent enrollment" means the full-time equivalent enrollment used to calculate the State share of basic current expenses for a fiscal year under § 5-202 of this subtitle.

(2) Subject to the limitations under paragraph (3) of this subsection, for fiscal year [1998] 2001 and every year thereafter the amount of the grant shall be equal to the amount of the grant for the previous year increased by the same percentage as the increase in the private transportation category of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, for the [Baltimore] WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE metropolitan area, as of July of the [second] fiscal year preceding the year for which the amount is being calculated, plus an additional amount equal to the product of:

(i) The total State grant for school transportation for the previous fiscal year divided by the full-time equivalent enrollment for the previous fiscal year; and

(ii) [1.] For fiscal year 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter, the difference between the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year and the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, or, if the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year is less than the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, zero; and

2. For fiscal year 1998 only, one-half the difference between the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year and the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, or, if the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year is less than the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, zero].

(3) The increase in the amount of the grant that is based on the increase in the private transportation category of the Consumer Price Index may not be less than 3 percent nor more than 8 percent of the amount of the grant for the previous year.

(c) For each fiscal year, in addition to the grant provided under subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a handicapped student transportation grant shall be distributed to each county board. The amount of the grant to each board shall be \$500 times the number of handicapped students requiring special transportation services who are transported by the county board in excess of the number transported during the 1980-1981 school year.

(d) For the purposes of determining the amount of the grant provided under subsection (c) of this section, the State Board shall develop a procedure and adopt regulations for determining the number of handicapped students transported in each jurisdiction in excess of the number transported in the 1980-1981 school year.

(e) The State Board shall adopt rules and regulations that provide for the safe operation of the student transportation system of each county board of education.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000.