

[(d)](E) Student financial aid programs should be developed in order to provide reasonable access to the appropriate academic programs for individuals who exhibit financial need, who are educationally disadvantaged, or who exhibit special merit.

10-207.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall:

(1) Advise the Governor and General Assembly on statewide higher education policy;

(2) Conduct statewide planning for higher education;

(3) Coordinate and arbitrate among different segments of higher education in the State;

(4) Review, negotiate as necessary, and grant final approval of mission statements for each public institution of higher education AND EACH REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER THAT REQUESTS OR RECEIVES STATE FUNDING;

(5) Assess the adequacy of operating and capital funding for public higher education and establish operating funding guidelines based on comparison with peer institutions and on other relevant criteria;

(6) Establish and maintain a higher education information system for planning, coordination, and evaluation purposes;

(7) Coordinate the State's program of performance accountability reporting for public institutions of higher education; and

(8) Administer statewide programs of student financial assistance for higher education.

10-212.

(A) REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS IN THE STATE ARE IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND ARE VITAL TO THE DELIVERY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

(B) A REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO CITIZENS IN UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED AREAS OF THE STATE;

(2) RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES IN THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY SERVE; AND

(3) ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF, AND PROVIDE PROGRAMS TO, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.