

~~[(7)]~~ (8) The Commission may distribute strategic incentive funds to an institution of higher education OR A REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER to encourage attainment of the goals and priorities set forth in the State Plan for Higher Education.

(c) With respect to the community colleges, the Commission:

(1) May provide grants-in-aid for the planning of new community colleges and new programs in existing community colleges;

(2) Shall administer programs of State support and financial assistance for the community colleges;

(3) Shall assist and represent the community colleges in seeking and administering federal moneys available to them;

(4) May designate any community college instructional program as a statewide or regional program;

(5) Shall assure that courses and programs offered are within the scope of the mission of the community colleges;

(6) Shall assure that State funds for community colleges are spent prudently and in accordance with State guidelines;

(7) Shall provide centralized data processing assistance; and

(8) Shall coordinate relationships between the community colleges, the State and county public school systems, and the private high schools to:

(i) Facilitate cooperation among them in the guidance and admission of students to the community colleges; and

(ii) Arrange for the most advantageous use of facilities.

(D) (1) WITH RESPECT TO THE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS, THE COMMISSION:

~~(1)~~ (I) MAY REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION;

~~(2)~~ (II) MAY PROVIDE GRANTS TO REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS FOR ONGOING OPERATING EXPENSES AND LEASE PAYMENTS IF CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE APPROVED MISSION STATEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS;

~~(3)~~ (III) SHALL ADMINISTER PROGRAMS OF STATE SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS;

~~(4)~~ (IV) SHALL ASSURE THAT COURSES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE APPROVED MISSIONS OF THE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS; AND