

(1) BE A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST; AND

(2) SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE STATE BOARD.

(C) THE DIRECTOR MAY EMPLOY QUALIFIED STAFF AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE STATE BUDGET.

8-504.

(A) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH A HEARING AID LOAN BANK.

(B) THE DIRECTOR SHALL PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN:

(1) A POOL OF HEARING AIDS IN THE LOAN BANK TO LEND TO A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD;

(2) TESTING AND PROGRAMMING EQUIPMENT FOR HEARING AIDS IN THE LOAN BANK; AND

(3) SUPPLIES FOR REPAIR AND RECONDITIONING OF HEARING AIDS IN THE LOAN BANK.

8-505.

(A) ~~UPON RECEIPT OF A PRESCRIPTION FROM A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST, THE DIRECTOR SHALL LEND A SUITABLE HEARING AID TO A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD~~ UPON RECEIPT OF:

(1) A PRESCRIPTION FROM A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST; AND

(2) ANY DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY THE DIRECTOR TO PROVE THAT THE CHILD IS AN ELIGIBLE CHILD.

(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LOAN PERIOD SHALL BE FOR NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS BUT MAY BE EXTENDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR FOR ADDITIONAL 3 MONTH PERIODS.

(2) THE DIRECTOR MAY EXTEND THE ORIGINAL LOAN PERIOD FOR ADDITIONAL 3-MONTH PERIODS IF, PRIOR TO EACH EXTENSION, THE DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT:

(I) THE CHILD DOES NOT HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO ANOTHER HEARING AID UNDER MEDICAID, THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM, OR PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE;

(II) THE CHILD'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CURRENTLY DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO ANOTHER HEARING AID; AND

(III) THE CHILD'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IS MAKING REASONABLE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO ANOTHER HEARING AID.

(C) A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN WHO BORROWS A HEARING AID FOR AN ELIGIBLE CHILD SHALL: