

(G) ~~IN FISCAL YEAR 2003~~ EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2004 THROUGH 2007, THE STATE SHALL DISTRIBUTE A GRANT TO EACH COUNTY BOARD THAT IS EQUAL TO ~~75%~~ ~~OF~~ THE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD IN FISCAL YEAR 2002 FOR THE EXTENDED ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM.

[5-206.1.

(a) It is the intent of this section to provide competitive grants to encourage county boards to expand and develop mentoring programs.

(b) Subject to the appropriation of funds in the annual State budget, the State Superintendent annually shall distribute in accordance with the criteria specified in subsection (c) of this section competitive grants to county boards for expansion of mentor programs.

(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.]

[5-207.

(a) In this section, "student living in poverty" means a student who qualifies for a free or reduced price lunch.

(b) The targeted poverty grants shall be distributed as follows:

(1) County boards shall submit to the State Board comprehensive plans for specific schools to improve educational achievement for students living in poverty.

(2) Upon approval by the State Board of a county's plans under paragraph (1) of this subsection, a county board shall receive a share of the funds available for targeted poverty grants that is proportional to its share of the statewide number of students living in poverty for the school year prior to the fiscal year for which the appropriation is provided.

(3) Grants to individual schools may not exceed \$1,500 for each student living in poverty attending the school receiving the grant.

(4) In selecting the schools, the county board shall give priority to schools with the highest concentration of students living in poverty.