

(2) EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AT LEAST 80 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR FOR NEED-BASED PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED IN §§ 18-301, 18-706(D), 18-1401, 18-1501, AND 18-2601 OF THIS TITLE AND § 13-613(D)(1) OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

18-201.

There is [a State Scholarship Administration] AN OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE within the Commission.

18-202.

(a) The head of the [Administration] OFFICE is the Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

(b) Subject to the general policies of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the general supervision of the Secretary, the Executive Director exercises the powers and performs the duties under this title.

18-203.

(a) The [Administration] OFFICE may employ the additional staff necessary to carry out its functions as provided in the State budget.

(b) Each employee of the [Administration] OFFICE is entitled to the compensation provided in the State budget.

(c) In conducting their operations, the Commission and [Administration] OFFICE shall share resources and coordinate their activities in order to enhance the efficient utilization of resources in the performance of their functions.

18-204.

(a) In addition to any other powers granted and duties imposed by this title, the [Administration] OFFICE has the powers and duties set forth in this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the [Administration] OFFICE shall:

(1) Administer the scholarship and tuition assistance programs under this title;

(2) Issue and disseminate public information about these scholarships;

(3) Regulate the form and submission of applications for scholarships and tuition assistance under this title; and

(4) Conduct conferences and interviews with applicants to evaluate their eligibility.

(c) The [Administration] OFFICE may adopt any rule or regulation necessary to carry out its powers and duties.

(d) The [Administration] OFFICE: