

WHEREAS, There is a need to assure that courses offered through the Internet and through new and developing technologies are of high quality and align with the Maryland content standards as well as other appropriate standards; and

WHEREAS, The State and county public school systems can benefit from consolidated procurement and coordinated support; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

7-901.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Eligible consortium" includes a local educational agency and a public or private nonprofit organization.

(c) "Instructional programming" means the full range of audio and video text, graphics, or additional state-of-the-art communications distributed through interactive, command and control, or passive methods for the purpose of education and instruction.

(d) "Students" means students from a broad range of backgrounds and circumstances, including:

- (1) Disadvantaged students;
- (2) Students with diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds;
- (3) Students with disabilities;
- (4) Students with limited English proficiency;
- (5) Students who have dropped out of school; and
- (6) Academically talented students.

(e) "Technology" means the latest state-of-the-art technology products and services, including:

- (1) Closed circuit television systems;
- (2) Educational television and radio broadcasting;
- (3) Cable television;
- (4) Satellite;
- (5) Copper and [fiber optic] FIBER-OPTIC transmission;
- (6) Computer AND COMPUTER-BASED TECHNOLOGY;
- (7) Video and audio laser and CD ROM discs; [and]