

(g) The Department shall establish guidelines for the application and selection of participants in the Academy and any other appropriate matter to implement the provisions of this subtitle.

(h) Funds for the Academy shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Department.

7-1002.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT INCLUDE:

(1) OFFERING A DISTANCE-LEARNING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION;

(2) OFFERING EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL CHOICES NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS THROUGH ON-LINE COURSES AND SERVICES; AND

(3) EXPANDING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO EDUCATIONAL STAFF IN MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGH ON-LINE COURSES AND SERVICES.

(B) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE BOARD AND THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP ON-LINE COURSES AND SERVICES;

(2) PROCURE ON-LINE COURSES AND SERVICES;

(3) DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL SYSTEM EMPLOYEES FOR THE OFFERING OF COURSES OR SERVICES ON THE INTERNET OR THROUGH OTHER DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(4) REVIEW COURSES AND COURSEWARE TO ASSURE QUALITY AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE MARYLAND CONTENT STANDARDS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STANDARDS.

(C) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FUND.

(2) THE STATE BOARD MAY SET REASONABLE FEES FOR ON-LINE COURSES AND SERVICES.

(3) THE FEES CHARGED SHALL BE SET SO AS TO PRODUCE FUNDS TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE OF MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

(4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PAY ALL FUNDS COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO THE COMPTROLLER OF THE STATE.

(5) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FEES TO THE MARYLAND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FUND.

(6) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.