

student transportation shall be equal to the amount of the county's base grant for student transportation for the previous year increased by the same percentage as the increase in the private transportation category of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, for the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area, as of July of the fiscal year preceding the year for which the amount is being calculated, plus an additional amount equal to the product of:

(i) The total amount of funds distributed by the State as base grants for student transportation for the previous fiscal year divided by the statewide full-time equivalent enrollment for the previous fiscal year; and

(ii) The difference between the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year and the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, or, if the full-time equivalent enrollment in a county for the current fiscal year is less than the full-time equivalent enrollment in the county for the previous fiscal year, zero.

(3) The increase in the amount of a base grant for student transportation that is based on the increase in the private transportation category of the Consumer Price Index may not be less than 3 percent nor more than 8 percent of the amount of the grant for the previous year.

(d) For each fiscal year, in addition to the base grant for student transportation provided under subsection (c) of this section, a disabled student transportation grant shall be distributed to each county board. The amount of the grant to each board shall be equal to the product of the number of disabled students requiring special transportation services who are transported by the county board in the [second prior] PREVIOUS fiscal year and:

- (1) \$600 in fiscal year 2004;
- (2) \$700 in fiscal year 2005;
- (3) \$800 in fiscal year 2006;
- (4) \$900 in fiscal year 2007; and
- (5) \$1,000 in fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(e) For the purposes of determining the amount of the grant provided under subsection (d) of this section, the State Board shall develop a procedure and adopt regulations for determining the number of disabled students transported in each jurisdiction in the [second prior] PREVIOUS fiscal year.

(f) The State Board shall adopt rules and regulations that provide for the safe operation of the student transportation system of each county board of education.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004 and shall be applicable to disabled student transportation grants distributed in fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Approved April 13, 2004.