

~~(5) AS A STUDENT IN THE 9TH GRADE, HAVE SIGNED A PLEDGE TO REMAIN DRUG FREE;~~

~~(6)~~ (5) ENROLL IN COLLEGE AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT;

~~(7)~~ (6) HAVE AN ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME BELOW A POVERTY INDEX DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

~~(8)~~ (7) SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL CRITERIA THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH.

18-303.

(a) (1) The Administration shall determine the amount of each [general State scholarship] ~~FREE-STATE~~ EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD based on the financial need of the applicant.

(2) IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL NEED, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSIDER REGIONAL COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENCES.

(b) (1) [A general State scholarship] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ~~A FREE-STATE~~ AN EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD may be awarded in \$100 increments[. However,] AND the award for a single year may not be less than \$200 or more than [\$2,500] \$3,000.

[(2) A recipient may not be awarded more than \$10,000 for undergraduate study.]

(2) (I) ALL APPLICANTS WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN § 18-302(B) AND (C) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL RECEIVE A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT.

(II) THE AMOUNT OF A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT SHALL BE EQUAL TO 100 PERCENT OF THE STUDENT'S FINANCIAL NEED AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATION, NOT TO EXCEED THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL EXPENSES OF A FULL-TIME RESIDENT UNDERGRADUATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK.

18-304.

(a) ~~A~~ AN [general State scholarship] ~~FREE-STATE~~ EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD may be used:

(1) At a degree granting institution of higher education, an eligible institution with [a terminal certificate] AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE program that provides transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program, or a hospital diploma school for training registered nurses if the curriculum is approved by the Commission; and

(2) For educational expenses as defined by the Commission, including: