

(3) "AREA OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE" MEANS AN ACADEMIC FIELD IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION AS HAVING PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEED PROJECTED QUALIFIED GRADUATES.

(4) "AREA OF GEOGRAPHIC SHORTAGE" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE STATE IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS LESS ABLE THAN OTHERS IN THE STATE TO SATISFY THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN AN ACADEMIC FIELD IDENTIFIED FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS AS AN AREA OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE.

(5) "DEGREED RECIPIENT" MEANS A RECIPIENT OF A TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION WHO POSSESSES AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREE.

(6) "NONDEGREED RECIPIENT" MEANS A RECIPIENT OF A TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION WHO DOES NOT POSSESS AN UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREE IN AN AREA OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE.

(7) "TEACHER RECIPIENT" MEANS A RECIPIENT OF A TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION EMPLOYED OR CERTIFIED AS A TEACHER IN A FIELD WHICH IS NOT AN AREA OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE.

(8) "SERVICE OBLIGATION" MEANS TO TEACH IN THE STATE IN AN AREA OF GEOGRAPHIC OR CRITICAL SHORTAGE IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

(9) "TUITION ASSISTANCE" MEANS ANY FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE COST OF BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL CHARGES, FEES, ROOM, BOARD, OR OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.

(B) (1) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO BE KNOWN AS THE SHARON CHRISTA MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL TEACHER EDUCATION AWARD MAY BE AWARDED AS TEACHER EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL AWARD ANNUALLY TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR THE EDUCATION OF PERSONS TO TEACH IN AREAS OF CRITICAL OR GEOGRAPHIC SHORTAGE.

(3) THE RECIPIENT OF A TEACHER EDUCATION TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT SHALL USE THE AWARD AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

(4) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO DETERMINE ACADEMIC CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF TUITION ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS FROM ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.