



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box 904
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404

The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 1173
McLean, Virginia 22101

The Honorable H. Russell Potts, Chairman
Senate Education and Health Committee
14 North Braddock Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601

The Honorable Robert Tata, Chairman
House Education Committee
4536 Gleneagle Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

Dear Senators Chichester and Potts and Delegates Callahan and Tata:

I am pleased to submit the Department of Education's report on critical shortage teaching areas for the 2007-2008 school year pursuant to Item 132, paragraph B, of Chapter 847, 2007 Acts of Assembly. The language in the appropriation act states that the Department shall report annually on the critical shortage teaching areas in Virginia.

If you have questions or require additional information relative to this transmittal, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 225-2023.

Sincerely,

Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.

BKCjr/jyc

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
The Honorable Thomas R. Morris

State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2007-2008 School Year

**Prescribed Methodology for Determining Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
in Virginia**

Overview:

The **Appropriation Act (Item 132, paragraph B, Chapter 847, 2007 Acts of Assembly)**, requires the Department of Education to report annually to the General Assembly on the critical teaching shortage areas in Virginia. In response to this requirement, data were obtained from the Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel sent by the Department of Education to each of Virginia's school division superintendents in March 2007, to determine qualifications for teachers and administrators. Information requested on the survey was based on school data reports as of October 1, 2006. These data will be used to determine 2007-2008 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas in Virginia.

In Virginia, "critical shortage" may be defined in two ways: (1) shortages by subject matter as designated from the top 10 academic disciplines identified in an annual survey of school divisions; or, (2) a school personnel vacancy for which a school division receives three or fewer qualified candidates for a position. Determination of critical shortages in specific teaching endorsement areas and their rankings are dependent on the method of calculation used. As such, specific shortage areas identified will differ among school divisions (i.e., geographic regions) and statewide analysis of subject matter designations.

The 2007-2008 top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas identified statewide were determined based on method number two as noted above and prescribed methodology for designation of teacher shortage areas outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. The process for determination of these areas has been completed in accordance with requirements outlined in *Enclosure A, Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Designation Submission Checklist*, received from that office. The top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas will be reported to the Virginia Retirement System and will be used to determine candidate eligibility for the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program. Endorsement areas were ranked according to the most severe academic teaching shortage areas.

The ranking is based on an aggregation of the total number of unfilled positions (for vacancies with three or fewer applications) received in elementary education, special education, foreign languages, career and technical education, and middle education grades six through eight. A total of 38 administrative and teaching areas were taken into account to determine the top 10 critical teaching shortage area assignments.

Methodology:

Data analyses include calculated rankings from the total number of school personnel vacancies for which a school division received three or fewer qualified candidates as of October 1, 2006, as reported in the 2006-2007 Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel. All 132 school divisions responded to the survey. Respondents reported a total of 1,273 unfilled positions and 884 vacancies for which three or fewer qualified candidates were reported. Additionally, a total of 98,354 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions as of October 1, 2006, were reported. The percentage of FTE teaching positions for all rankings is less than the 5 percent limit allowed by the U. S. Department of Education. Rankings were totaled and the resulting sum ranked to determine teaching area shortages. This approach reflects both the absolute shortage as well as the relative shortage of each teaching endorsement area.

State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2007-2008 School Year

2007-2008 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia

The following represent the top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement area assignments for 2007-2008:

1. Special Education (speech and language disorders; learning disabilities; emotional disturbance; mental retardation; early childhood special education; visual impairment; hearing impairment; severe disabilities)
2. Elementary Education, preK-6
3. Mathematics, 6-12
4. Middle Grades, 6-8
5. Career and Technical Education
6. Foreign Languages (Spanish, preK-12; French, preK-12)
7. Health and Physical Education, preK-12
8. English, 6-12
9. English as a Second Language, preK-12
10. School Counselor, preK-12