



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Patricia I. Wright, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2120  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

Office: (804) 225-2023  
Fax: (804) 371-2099

August 25, 2009

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan, Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
10677 Aviation Lane  
Manassas, Virginia 20110

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
P.O. Box 127  
Bedford, Virginia 24523

The Honorable R. Edward Houck, Chairman  
Senate Education and Health Committee  
P.O. Box 7  
Spotsylvania, Virginia 22553

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

Dear Senators Colgan and Houck and Delegates Putney and Tata:

I am pleased to submit the Department of Education's report on critical shortage teaching areas for the 2009-2010 school year pursuant to Item 139, paragraph H.1, Chapter 728, 2009 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, please do not hesitate to contact me at (804) 225-2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia I. Wright".

Patricia I. Wright

PIW/jyc

Enclosure

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

## *State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas*

*for*

*2009-2010 School Year*

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

#### Overview:

The **Appropriation Act (Item 139, paragraph H.1, Chapter 728, 2009 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 October 2008, to determine qualifications for teachers and administrators. Information requested on the survey was based on school data reports as of October 1, 2008. These data will be used to determine 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 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 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 science, special education, foreign languages, career and technical education, and mathematics. A total of 31 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, 2008, as reported in the 2008-2009 Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel. All 132 school divisions responded to the survey. Respondents reported a total of 446 unfilled positions and 268 vacancies for which three or fewer qualified candidates were reported. Additionally, a total of 100,908 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions as of October 1, 2008, were reported for SY2008-2009 in the Instructional Personnel and Licensure annual data collection for school divisions. 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.

**2009-2010 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia**

1. Special Education (special education general curriculum K-12 [learning disabilities; emotional disturbance; mental retardation]; early childhood special education [birth through age 5]; visual impairments preK-12); hearing impairments preK-12; special education adapted curriculum K-12 [severe disabilities]
2. Speech-language disorders preK-12
3. Mathematics Grades 6-12
4. English as a Second Language preK-12
5. Elementary Education preK-6
6. Foreign Languages (Spanish preK-12; Latin preK-12)
7. Science Grades 6-12
8. Mathematics (Algebra I)
9. Reading Specialist
10. Career and Technical Education (technology education; agriculture education)