



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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April 20, 2010

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
10660 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
2955 Virginia Beach Blvd., Suite 105
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

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 2010-2011 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 Robert F. McDonnell
The Honorable Gerard Robinson

Commonwealth of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2010-2011 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 2009, to determine qualifications for teachers and administrators. Information requested on the survey was based on school data reports as of October 1, 2009. These data will be used to determine 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas identified statewide were determined based on method number one 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 following: a) total number of teaching positions that are unfilled; b) teaching positions that are filled by provisionally licensed teachers; and c) teaching positions that are filled by teachers who are licensed, but who are teaching in academic subject areas other than their area of preparation.

Data analyses include calculated rankings in the three areas noted as of October 1, 2009, as reported in the 2009-2010 Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel. All 132 school divisions responded to the survey. A total of 98,742 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions as of October 1, 2009, were reported for SY2009-2010 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 five percent limit allowed by the U. S. Department of Education. Rankings were totaled and the resulting sum ranked to determine teaching area shortages.

2010-2011 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia

1. Special Education
2. Elementary Education preK-6
3. Middle Education Grades 6-8
4. Career and Technical Education
5. Mathematics Grades 6-12 (including Algebra I)
6. Science Grades 6-12
7. Foreign Languages preK-12
8. School Counselor preK-12
9. Health and Physical Education preK-12
10. English Grades 6-12