



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

JAN 25 2012

Honorable Brenda Cassellius
Minnesota Commissioner of Education
Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266

Dear Commissioner Cassellius:

Thank you for submitting a report of your State's proposed teacher shortage areas, and providing the appropriate supporting information. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has evaluated your proposed teacher shortage areas pursuant to specific provisions addressed in regulations concerning Federal student financial aid programs. In particular, 34 CFR Sec. 682.210(q)(6) addresses the prescribed and alternative methodologies to calculate the proposed designated teacher shortage areas, as well as the supporting documentation and assurances that must accompany the requested shortage areas.

In response to your submission, the Department has designated the following academic disciplines or subject matter (noted at specific grade levels, if provided) and geographic regions (if reported) as teacher shortage areas during the 2012-2013 school year:

Statewide Academic Disciplines or Subject Matter

American Indian Language/Culture
Chemistry
Communication Technology Careers
Construction Careers
Dance
Earth and Space Science
English as a Second Language
Mathematics
Middle Level Science (Grades 5 – 8)
Parent and Family Education
Physics
Reading

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Special Education

Blind or Visually Impaired
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Early Childhood
Emotional Behavioral Disorders
Learning Disabilities
Oral/Aural Deaf Education
Physical and Health Disabilities

Teacher Coordinator: Work-based Learning

Theatre

Transportation Careers

World Languages and Cultures

For your information, the Department’s approval of the proposed shortage areas in your State may benefit student grant and loan recipients who are qualified to teach in the academic disciplines, grade levels, and/or geographic regions in your State where the designated teacher shortages currently occur. These benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations, are indicated in the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFR 682.210(b)(5)(ii), (b)(7), (q), and (s) enable a borrower who had no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan on July 1, 1987, but who had an outstanding FFEL Program loan on July 1, 1993, to qualify for deferment of loan repayment under the Stafford Loan Program anytime within the life of the borrower’s loan(s) for up to three years of service as a full-time teacher in a public or non-profit private elementary or secondary school in a teacher shortage area designated by the Department, and as certified by the chief administrative officer of the particular school in which the borrower is teaching;
- 34 CFR 674.53(c) enables Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who are full-time teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education, **or any other field of expertise where the State educational agency determined there is a shortage of qualified teachers** to qualify for cancellation of up to 100% of the outstanding balance on the borrower’s Federal Perkins loans;
- 34 CFR 686.12(d) enables grant recipients to fulfill their teaching obligation under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program (regarding the requirement to serve at least four academic years, within eight years of graduation) by teaching in a “high-need field,” which includes academic disciplines/subject areas identified as teacher shortage areas at the time the grant recipient begins teaching in that field; and

- 34 CFR 653.50(a)(2)(ii) enables scholarship recipients to qualify for the reduction of teaching obligation under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, specifying a requirement to teach only one year (rather than the standard two years) for each year of scholarship assistance received, by teaching in a Federally approved teacher shortage area in a geographic region, grade level, and/or subject area/discipline classification in which there is a shortage of elementary or secondary school teachers.

Please refer Stafford Loan and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) borrowers who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, to the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 1-800-4FED-AID. Refer Federal Perkins Loan borrowers to the school where they received the loan, and refer Paul Douglas Scholarship recipients to the State agency that awarded the scholarship.

If you have any questions regarding the Department's designation of your State's teacher shortage areas in specific academic disciplines, please contact Andrea C. Baird at (202) 502-7797 or via e-mail at andrea.baird@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra Saunders-White".

Debra Saunders-White, Ed.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Higher Education Programs