

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2004-2005

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For approval.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.07, Florida Statutes
State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.0131(2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida Statutes require that the State Board of Education approve areas of critical teacher shortage to be used in implementing the Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program and the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program. To implement this legislation, State Board Rule requires the Commissioner to recommend specific teacher areas in which critical teacher shortages are projected for the public schools during the year following the academic year in which approval is made.

Each fall the Department of Education surveys school districts to determine the number of teaching positions filled from July 1 to November 1. Survey results provide two indicators of subject fields currently facing critical shortages: (1) the number of new hires as a percentage of teachers in each field and (2) the number of positions filled by teachers who lack appropriate certification. A third measure of teacher shortage is the number of teachers currently teaching courses in subjects in which they are not certified.

Based on these indicators, the Commissioner is recommending that the State Board approve the identification of the following fields as critical shortage areas for 2004-05: middle and high school level mathematics, middle and high school level science, reading, exceptional student education programs, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), foreign languages, school psychologists, and technology education/industrial arts. These are the same fields designated as critical shortage areas for 2003-04.

Supporting Documentation Included: Critical Teacher Shortage Areas 2004-2005

Facilitators/Presenters: John L. Winn, Deputy Commissioner