

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item
December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Identification of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2007-2008

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. The projected numbers of teachers needed in the target year are then compared to the projected supply.

Based on these indicators, the Commissioner is recommending that the State Board approve the identification of the following fields as critical shortage areas for 2007-08: middle and high school level mathematics, middle and high school level science, middle and high school level 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 that were designated as critical shortage areas for 2006-07, with the sole exception being that reading at the elementary level would no longer be a designated shortage area.

Supporting Documentation Included: None. Proposed critical teacher shortage areas for 2007-08 are listed in the last paragraph above.

Facilitator/Presenter: Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research, and Measurement