

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

February 19, 2008

SUBJECT: Approval of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for 2008-2009

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 the State Board of Education to approve areas of critical teacher shortage areas for use in implementing the Critical Teacher Shortage Tuition Reimbursement Program and the Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program. State Board Rule requires the Commissioner to recommend specific projected public school teacher shortage areas for the next academic year.

Each fall the Department of Education surveys school districts to determine the number of teaching positions filled from July 1st to November 1st. Survey results provide two indicators of subject fields currently facing critical shortages. These indicators include: (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 teacher supply.

Based on these indicators, the Commissioner recommends that the State Board approve the identification of the following fields as critical shortage areas for 2008-09: (1) middle and high school level mathematics; (2) middle and high school level science; (3) middle and high school level English/language arts; (4) reading; (5) exceptional student education programs; (6) English for speakers of other languages (ESOL); (7) foreign languages; and (8) technology education/ industrial arts. These are the same fields that were designated as critical shortage areas for 2007-08, with the addition of English/language arts and the deletion of school psychologists. Current measures of teacher shortages indicate that English/language arts is a shortage field on par with science and math, while the gap has significantly narrowed between the supply and demand for school psychologists.

Supporting Documentation Included: Critical Teacher Shortage Areas 2008-2009

Facilitators/Presenters: Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement

Summary of Rankings Selected Subject Fields*						
Subject Fields	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Hires as a % of Teachers	% Hired out of Field	% Teaching out of Field	Completers as a % of New Hires 2007-08	Average Rank	Final Rank
ESOL	9	2	4	1	4.0	1
Eng/Lang. Arts	1	5	7	13	6.5	2.5
Foreign Lang	2	9	9	6	6.5	2.5
Total Exceptional	7	3	10	7	6.8	4
Ind Arts/Tech Educ	10	4	12	2	7.0	6
Reading	14	1	2	11	7.0	6
Science	3	6	11	8	7.0	6
Math	4	7	6	12	7.3	8
Art	11	15	1	3	7.5	9
Music	8	13	3	9	8.3	10.5
Physical Educ	15	8	5	5	8.3	10.5
Guidance Coun.	12	14	8	10	11.0	12
Elem Educ	5	10	16	14	11.3	13
Media Spec	16	11	15	4	11.5	14
Social Studies	6	12	14	15	11.8	15
School Psychol.	13	16	13	16	14.5	16

*Critical teacher shortage areas recommended for 2008-09 are in bold.

Note: For columns 1-3, the greater the percentage, the higher the rank, with 1 as the highest rank and 16 as the lowest. In column 4, the lower the percentage of completers, the higher the rank. For more information about the measures used in the rankings, see the report, *Critical Teacher Shortage Areas, 2008-09*.