

Commonwealth of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas

for

2008-2009 School Year

**Prescribed Methodology for Determining
Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia**

Overview:

The **Appropriation Act (Item 139, paragraph H.1, Chapter 879, 2008 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 January 2008, to determine qualifications for teachers and administrators. Information requested on the survey was based on school data reports as of October 1, 2007. These data were used to determine 2008-2009 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.

The 2008-2009 top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas identified statewide were determined based on method number two as noted above and prescribed methodology for designation of teacher shortage areas outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. The process for determination of these areas has been completed in accordance with requirements outlined in *Enclosure A, Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Designation Submission Checklist*, received from 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. For statewide teacher shortages, endorsement areas were ranked according to the most severe academic teaching shortage areas.

The ranking is based on an aggregation of the total number of unfilled positions (for vacancies with three or fewer applications) received in science, special education, foreign languages, career and technical education, and middle education grades six through eight.

Methodology:

Data analyses include calculated rankings from the total number of school personnel vacancies for which a school division received three or fewer qualified candidates as of October 1,

2007, as reported in the 2007-2008 Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel. All 132 school divisions responded to the survey. Respondents to the survey reported a total of 643 unfilled positions. Of those unfilled positions, 269 vacancies had three or fewer qualified candidates reported. Full-time equivalent teaching positions (FTEs) in each teaching endorsement area were totaled and the resulting sum ranked to determine teaching area shortages. This approach reflects both the absolute shortage as well as the relative shortage of each teaching endorsement area.

Additionally, a total of 99,584.15 FTEs as of October 1, 2007, were reported for SY2007-2008 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 5 percent limit allowed by the U. S. Department of Education.

State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2008-2009 School Year

2008-2009 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia

The following represent the top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement area assignments for 2008-2009:

1. Special Education:
 - speech-language disorders preK-12;
 - special education general curriculum K-12 (learning disabilities; emotional disturbance; mental retardation);
 - early childhood special education (birth through age 5);
 - special education adapted curriculum K-12 (severe disabilities);
 - hearing impairments preK-12;
 - visual impairments preK-12
2. Mathematics (Mathematics 6-12; Algebra I)
3. Science (Earth science; middle grades 6-8; biology)
4. Reading Specialist
5. Foreign Languages (Spanish preK-12)
6. Career and Technical Education (family and consumer sciences; technology education)
7. English as a Second Language preK-12
8. English 6-12
9. Library Media preK-12
10. Middle Grades 6-8 (all subjects)