



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2011-2012  
Circular Letter: C-1

**TO:** Superintendents of Schools  
Principals of Schools

**FROM:** George A. Coleman  
Acting Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** July 8, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Teacher Shortage Areas, 2011-12 School Year

Based on data collected in October 2010, the following endorsement areas will be designated as teacher shortage areas for the 2011-12 school year:

Certification Endorsements

- Bilingual Education, PK-12
- Comprehensive Special Education, K-12
- English, 7-12
- Intermediate Administrator
- Mathematics, 7-12
- Remedial Reading and Language Arts, 1-12
- Science, 7-12
- Speech and Language Pathologist
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
- World Languages, 7-12

Teachers who teach in one of the shortage areas can benefit from the following state programs:

Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program

Section 8-265pp of the General Statutes established a Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program for **certified public school teachers who are employed by, and purchase a first-time home, as their primary residence, in a priority or transitional school district. Section 57 of Public Act 01-173 amended this statute to include in the program certified teachers who are employed by technical high schools located in priority or transitional school districts. Additionally, the program is available to certified public school teachers who hold the endorsement and teach in the 2011-12 state-identified certification endorsement shortage areas.**

In the case of certified public school teachers employed by a priority or transitional school district or by a technical high school in a priority or transitional school district, the dwelling must be located in that district. Teachers who hold the endorsement and teach in a state-identified certification endorsement shortage area will be able to purchase statewide.

This Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program is an important incentive to have educators live in the community in which they teach, as well as to address shortage-area needs. The program is administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) through its participating lenders.

All eligible teachers seeking a mortgage through this program will be required to have a Statement of Eligibility signed by the superintendent of schools. Attached is the Statement of Eligibility that you may copy and distribute to eligible teachers. This signed Statement will be required by the mortgage lender for proof of eligibility.

**Any questions or concerns regarding the Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program may be directed to the Single Family Underwriting Unit at CHFA at 860-571-3502.**

### **Rehiring of Retired Teachers**

Retired teachers may be reemployed without being subject to the earnings limit if they teach in a subject shortage area for the school year in which they are being employed. This employment may be for up to one full school year and may, with prior approval of the Teachers' Retirement Board, be extended for an additional year. If you have questions about this program, please contact Darlene Perez at the Teachers' Retirement Board at 860-241-8402.

Questions concerning the designation of teacher shortage areas may be directed to Michael Sabados either via email at [michael.sabados@ct.gov](mailto:michael.sabados@ct.gov) or by phone at 860-713-6856.

### **Federal Shortage Area Programs**

Teachers holding certifications in the state-identified certification endorsement shortage areas may be eligible for:

- Targeted teacher deferment for borrowers under the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) and Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) programs (34 CFR 682.210(q));
- Cancellation of up to 100 percent of their debt under the Federal Perkins Loan Program for full-time teaching in fields of expertise (34 CFR 674.53(c));
- Reduction of the teaching obligation for scholars under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (34 CFR 653.50(a)); and
- Enabling grant recipients under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program to fulfill their teaching obligations (34 CFR 686).

Please refer Federal Stafford/SLS and Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who have general questions concerning their loan(s), including the teacher shortage area deferment, to the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 1-800-4FED-AID and refer Douglas Scholars to the state agency that awarded the scholarship.

**Statement of Eligibility  
for Participation in the  
CHFA Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program**

I hereby certify that: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Applicant)

Check only **one** box:

holds a valid Connecticut certificate, is employed as a teacher in his/her respective endorsement area(s) and is employed as a teacher in a priority school district or transitional school district as designated by the Connecticut School Improvement Initiative.

**OR**

holds a valid Connecticut certificate and is employed as a teacher in his/her respective endorsement area(s) in one of the following 2011-2012 identified certification endorsement shortage areas:

- (Check One)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bilingual Education, PK-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehensive Special Education, K-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ English, 7-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Administrator
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics, 7-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Remedial Reading and Language Arts, 1-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Science, 7-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Language Pathology
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ World Languages, 7-12

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Original Signature of: Superintendents of Schools, Charter School Directors, Principals of Endowed & Incorporated Academies, Executive Directors of Regional Educational Service Centers, Directors of State Approved Non-Public Special Education Facilities)

Typed Name & Title of Signatory: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_