



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Series: 2011-2012  
Circular Letter: C-7

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

**FROM:** Stefan Pryor  
Commissioner of Education

**DATE:** March 7, 2012

**SUBJECT: Teacher Shortage Areas, 2012-13 School Year**

Pursuant to Section 10-8b, of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S), the following endorsement areas will be designated as teacher shortage areas for the 2012-13 school year:

### Certification Endorsements

- Bilingual Education, PK-12
- Comprehensive Special Education, K-12
- Hearing Impaired, PK-12
- Intermediate Administrator
- Mathematics, 7-12
- Remedial Reading and Language Arts, 1-12
- School Library and Media Specialist
- Science, 7-12
- Speech and Language Pathologist
- 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 Connecticut General Statutes provides for a mortgage assistance program for the purchase of a principal residence for certified teachers:

1. Employed by priority school districts;
2. Employed by transitional school districts;
3. Employed by the State of Connecticut, in a technical high school, which is located in a priority or transitional school district; or
4. Who teach in a subject matter shortage area pursuant to Section 10-8b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In the case of certified teachers teaching in a priority or transitional school district, or in a technical high school located in a priority or transitional school district, the dwelling must be located in the district in which the school is located.

This Teachers' Mortgage Assistance Program is an important incentive designed to alleviate shortage areas and to have educators live in the community in which they teach. 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 in their district. 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 statutory earnings limit if they teach in a subject shortage area for the school year in which they are employed. The period of employment may last one full school year and may be extended for an additional year, subject to prior approval of the Teachers' Retirement Board. 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 e-mail 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 2012-13 identified certification endorsement shortage areas:

- (Check One)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bilingual Education, PK-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehensive Special Education, K-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Impaired, PK-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Administrator
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics, 7-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Remedial Reading and Language Arts, 1-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ School Library and Media Specialist
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Science, 7-12
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Speech and Language Pathologist
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 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, or Directors of State Approved Non-Public Special Education Facilities)

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

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

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