

SERIES 2001-2002
CIRCULAR LETTER: C-11

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: December 12, 2001

SUBJECT: FALL HIRING REPORT

Attached please find the Connecticut State Department of Education's latest report on the issue of teacher/administrator supply and demand.

While we continue to articulate the need for qualified teachers statewide and work for additional resources, this shortage of qualified teachers must be addressed by everyone in the educational community. The three most important contributions you can make at this time include:

1. Providing support and guidance to your first-year teachers in addition to the Beginner Educator Support and Training (BEST) mentor, assigning a teaching load and level of difficulty appropriate to a novice professional;
2. Enhancing your personnel/human resources management function to provide active and early recruitment and hiring of qualified staff; and
3. Nurturing middle and high school students' interest in teaching by providing tutoring opportunities, job shadowing, visits to colleges and universities, and sponsoring other future teacher activities.

The shortage of qualified teachers/administrators is a problem that is affecting students in our districts today, especially in Connecticut's rural and urban districts. This problem is not going away and must be addressed by a multi-pronged effort at the state and local level.

Thank you for your continued efforts to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and administrators.

TSS:ahe

cc: Leaders of Education-Related Organizations

Attachment