

Series: 2003-2004
Circular Letter: 2

TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Theodore S. Sergi, Commissioner of Education

DATE: July 11, 2003

SUBJECT: **Special Legislative Alert**: Changes to Provisions Concerning the Rehiring of Retired Teachers and the Time of Day For Administering Certain Tests

Among the new education laws enacted by the 2003 General Assembly are two that need your immediate attention as you hire staff and develop school schedules for the upcoming school year.

I. Rehiring of Retired Teachers: The earnings limit for retired teachers temporarily employed in teaching positions has been increased from not more than 45% of the entry-level salary for the assigned subject area to not more than 45% of the maximum salary level for the assigned position. For purposes of this provision, temporary employment means employment for less than a school year.

Additionally, retired teachers may be reemployed without being subject to the earnings limit if they teach in a position designated by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area for the school year in which they are being employed (see below). 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.

Subject shortage areas for 2003-04 are as follows:

Bilingual Education, Pre-K-12	Remedial Reading and Language Arts, 1-12
Comprehensive Special Education, K-12	School Psychologist
Consumer Home Economics, Pre-K-12	Spanish, 7-12
Mathematics, 7-12	Speech and Language Pathology
Music, Pre-K-12	Technology Education, Pre-K-12

Please note that the narrative above is a summary of this new law. The specific provisions are contained in Section 1 of Public Act 03-232 which is available on the Department of Education's website: <http://www.state.ct.us/sde> under Legal and Governmental Affairs: "Education Bills: 2003." The act has been signed by the Governor, and these provisions became effective July 1, 2003. If you have questions about this act, please contact Darlene Perez, Assistant Administrator for the Teachers' Retirement Board, at (860) 241-8401.

II. Testing Times for Students in Grades 7 to 12, Inclusive: Under a new law the administration in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, of the Connecticut mastery tests and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test shall not be earlier than 9:00 a.m. This provision is in Section 5 of Public Act 03-174. This act has been signed by the Governor, and this section became effective July 1, 2003. It, too, is available on the Department's website as described above.

I hope that this is helpful. Please note that I plan to have a more detailed summary of all of the 2003 legislation for the **Back-to-School Meeting** for superintendents on **August 19, 2003**.

TSS:kn