

Series: 2007-2008
Circular Letter: C-17

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Schools

FROM: Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education

DATE: May 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Teacher Shortage Areas, 2008-09 School Year

Based on data collected in October 2007, the following endorsement areas will be designated as teacher shortage areas for the 2008-09 school year:

Certification Endorsements

- Bilingual Education, PK-12
- Comprehensive Special Education, 1-12
- English, 7-12
- Intermediate Administrator
- Library Media Specialist
- Mathematics, 7-12
- Science, 7-12
- Speech and Language Pathology
- Technology Education, PK-12
- 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 2008-09 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.

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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 their 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, 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 Sarah Ellsworth either via email at sarah.ellsworth@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 713-6888.

MKM/se

Attachment

**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 2008-2009 identified certification endorsement shortage areas:

- (Check One) _____ Bilingual Education, PK-12
 _____ Comprehensive Special Education, 1-12
 _____ English, 7-12
 _____ Intermediate Administrator
 _____ Library Media Specialist
 _____ Mathematics, 7-12
 _____ Science, 7-12
 _____ Speech and Language Pathology
 _____ Technology Education, PK-12
 _____ 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 Signator: _____

School District: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____