

Matthew G. Bevin
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Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Dear Superintendents and Principals:

In response to Kentucky's submission, the United States Department of Education has designated the areas found below as teacher shortage areas during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Teacher shortage areas are identified through several resources, i.e., requests from the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board for certificates (temporary, emergency and probationary), vacancy reports (Kentucky Educational Placement Service and non-public schools), and communications with KDE content specific offices as well as private, non-profit elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, it is imperative districts remain vigilant when completing any actions related to posting vacancies and completing hiring reports. When posting positions in KEPS, the position description should be clear and concise, and all hiring data accurately completed. Appropriate completion impacts statewide teacher shortage designations.

English

English-Middle School
English- Secondary
English as a Second Language (ELL)

Science

Science-Middle School
Science-Secondary

World Languages

Career and Technical Education

Exceptional Children

Emotional-Behavior Disability
Moderate and Severe Disability
Learning and Behavior Disability
Hearing Impaired
Visually Impaired

Mathematics

Mathematics-Middle School
Mathematics-Secondary

Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

Approval by the United States Department of Education (USED) of these shortage areas in our state *may* benefit student grant and loan recipients who are qualified to teach in the aforementioned academic disciplines.

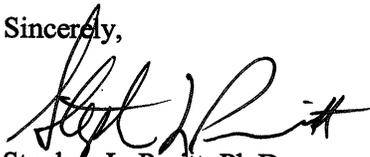
Benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations, are indicated in the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFT 682.210(b)(5)(ii), (b)(7), (q), and (s) enable a borrower who had no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan on July 1, 1987, but who had an outstanding FFEL Program loan on July 1, 1993, to qualify for deferment of loan repayment under the Stafford Loan Program anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s) for up to three years of service as full-time teacher in a private elementary or secondary school in a teacher shortage area designated by the USED, and as certified by the chief administrative officer of the particular school in which the borrower is teaching;

- 34 CFR 674.53(c) enables Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who are full-time teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education, **or any other field of expertise where the State educational agency determined there is a shortage of qualified teachers** to qualify for cancellation of up to 100% of the outstanding balance on the borrower's Federal Perkins loans; and
- 34 CFR 686.12(d) enables grant recipients to fulfill their teaching obligation under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education;
- (TEACH) Grant Program (regarding the requirement to serve at least four academic years, within eight years of graduation) by teaching in a "high-need field," which includes academic disciplines/subject areas identified as teacher shortage areas at the time the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

Stafford Loan and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) borrowers who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, should contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4FED-AID. Federal Perkins Loan borrowers should contact the college/university where they received the loan.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education