



**NCLB NYS Field Memo #02- 2007**

January 22, 2007

**To:** Charter School Administrators  
Deans, Directors and Chairs of Teacher Education  
District Superintendents  
New York State Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
Regional Certification Officers  
SETRC Professional Development Specialists  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Superintendents of State-Operated Schools

**From:** Johanna Duncan-Poitier                      Jean Stevens  
Deputy Commissioner                      Interim Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Higher Education              Office of Elementary, Middle, Secondary  
Office of the Professions                  and Continuing Education

Rebecca H. Cort  
Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Vocational and Educational  
Services for Individuals with Disabilities

**Subject:      Student Aid Benefits for Teachers and Data Available for Teacher Workforce Planning**

Consistent with *New York State's Revised Plan to Enhance Teacher Quality* of September 2006, this memo brings you the most recent information about student aid benefits for teachers and data available for teacher workforce planning.

1. **Federal student aid benefits for teachers.** There are many federal student aid benefits for teachers that are designed to help the nation's schools have an adequate supply of certified and highly qualified teachers. Each benefit has its own eligibility criteria and application process. The benefits are explained on the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) website at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp?tab=repaying>. Questions about them can be directed to 1-800-4FED-AID.
  
2. **Designated shortage areas for selected federal benefits for teachers.** The USDOE requires us to send you the list below and to request that you share it with school principals and ask them to share it with their teachers. According to the USDOE's December 14, 2006 letter to Commissioner Mills, the list below can be used to determine whether a teacher employed in New York State in school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 is eligible for one or more of the following federal benefits.
  - A borrower who had *no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) on July 1, 1987 but who had an outstanding FFEL program loan on July 1, 1993* and who teaches a subject on the list below during 2005-2006 and/or 2006-2007 qualifies for deferment of loan repayment under the Federal Stafford Program *anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s)*. [Legal authority: 34 CFR 682.210(q)]
  - A Federal Perkins Loan borrower who is a full-time teacher of a subject on the list below during 2005-2006 and/or 2006-2007 qualifies for cancellation of up to 100 percent of the loan. [Legal authority: 34 CFR 674.53(c)]
  - A Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship recipient who teaches a subject on the list below during 2005-2006 and/or 2006-2007 qualifies for reduction of the teaching obligation. [Legal authority: 34 CFR 653.50(a)(2)(ii)]

**Federally Approved List of New York State Teacher Shortage Areas\* for School Years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 for Selected Federal Student Aid Benefits**

The Arts (which include Art, Dance, Music, Theater)  
 Bilingual Education - Not Special Education (All grades)  
 Career & Technical Education  
 English (Grades 5-9 & 7-12)  
 English as a Second Language - Not Special Education (All grades)  
 Languages Other Than English  
 Library & School Media Specialists  
 Mathematics (Grades 5-9 & 7-12)  
 Reading & Literacy (All grades)  
 Sciences (Grades 5-9 & 7-12)  
 Special Education - Bilingual (All grades)  
 Special Education - Not Bilingual (Grades 5-9 & 7-12)

\*Each shortage area had at least 5 percent of FTE teaching assignments in 2005-2006 taught by teachers who were not appropriately certified for the assignments, as required by 34 CFR 682.210(q)(6)(iii).

3. **Other student aid benefits for teachers.** There are other New York State and federal student aid benefits for teachers.

- **Grants and scholarships.** Many grants and scholarship programs can be used for study leading to teacher certification. Details are at [http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/2/Grants Scholarships and Awards Quick Reference](http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/2/Grants_Scholarships_and_Awards_Quick_Reference).
- **Stafford loan forgiveness for teachers.** Certain teachers can have a portion of their Federal Stafford loans forgiven through the Federal Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers. For details, please refer to [http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/4/Federal Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers](http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/4/Federal_Loan_Forgiveness_Program_for_Teachers).

4. **Other information about shortages for teacher workforce planning.** The New York State Education Department goes beyond meeting federal requirements for identifying teacher shortage areas for selected federal student aid programs.

- **Teacher supply and demand reports.** The first annual teacher supply and demand report for New York State and each of its geographic regions, based on data from school year 2004-2005, was presented to the Board of Regents in May 2006. That report and its accompanying slide show are available at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tsdregents052006.htm>. The next annual report on teacher supply and demand based on data from school year 2005-2006 will be available by spring 2007 at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/>. These reports identify regional shortage areas to help school districts and teacher preparation institutions work together to plan to meet districts' long-term and short-term needs for certified and highly qualified teachers.
- **Data on the percent of core classes taught by highly qualified teachers.** In January 2007, the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents released data on the progress that New York State had made during school year 2005-2006 towards meeting the federal requirement that all classes of core academic subjects be taught by highly qualified teachers by the end of school year 2006-2007. Press release materials are available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/press-release/20070108/home.htm>.

These materials should be helpful to districts, BOCES, teacher preparation institutions and community colleges that have articulation agreements with teacher preparation programs as they all plan together to meet schools' and districts' short-term and long-term staffing needs.