



**VIRGINIA TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP
LOAN PROGRAM**

**PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

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Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- ❑ The 1999 General Assembly in House Bill 2607 codified the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP) by prescribing three components of the program and the criteria for the awards. While the funding availability and eligibility criteria for these teaching scholarships have been revised over the years, a Virginia scholarship loan program dates back to at least the early 70s.
- ❑ The Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program is authorized in the Code of Virginia § 22.1-290.01. Funding is authorized in Chapter 847, Item 132.B-C of the 2007 Appropriation Act.

PURPOSE

- ❑ The purposes of the scholarship loan program are to
 - increase the number of teacher candidates pursuing careers in critical teacher shortage areas as defined in the Board of Education's *Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas*;
 - expand eligibility to teacher candidates, including graduate students and paraprofessionals from Virginia school divisions who are enrolled full-time or part-time in an approved teacher education program; and
 - increase the diversity of persons pursuing careers in teaching, including male teacher candidates enrolled in an elementary or middle school education program and minority teacher candidates enrolled in any teaching endorsement area.

BACKGROUND

- ❑ The Board of Education's *Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas* (8VAC20-650-20) directs local school boards to annually survey their respective divisions to identify critical shortages of teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter, and to report such critical shortages to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Virginia Retirement System.
- ❑ Shortages in specific subject areas are derived from the top 10 academic disciplines identified by the survey as shortage fields. (See appendix.)
- ❑ On behalf of the Board of Education, the Department of Education administers the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP) to support teacher candidates in the identified critical teaching shortage areas.
- ❑ To be eligible, college students must be enrolled on a full- or part-time basis in one of the critical shortage teaching areas in a teacher education program that is approved by the Board of Education, be at or beyond the sophomore year (including graduate years), possess a grade point average of at least 2.7, and be identified as a domiciliary resident of Virginia.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ❑ The Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program (VTSLP) provides financial support to students who are preparing to teach in one of Virginia's critical shortage teaching areas.
- ❑ The VTSLP application process begins early in the second semester when the Department of Education distributes application materials to each of the colleges and universities in Virginia with approved teacher preparation programs. Students who are eligible for the VTSLP must be nominated by the college or university to receive the award.

- ❑ The Department of Education disseminates nomination packages to the colleges and universities. The colleges and universities identify teacher candidates who meet the established criteria. Candidates return completed packages to the college's or university's Office of Teacher Education. Only the dean or director of teacher education may submit applications to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).
- ❑ Through the VTSLP, eligible students may receive a scholarship loan for as much as \$3,720.
- ❑ When the student completes his/her teacher preparation program, the scholarship loan may be forgiven if the recipient teaches in the public schools of Virginia for the same number of years that he was the beneficiary of such scholarship.
- ❑ The VTSLP scholarship recipient may fulfill the teaching obligation by accepting a teaching position in
 - one of the critical teacher shortage disciplines as established by the Board of Education;
 - regardless of teaching discipline, in a school with a high concentration of students eligible for free or reduced lunch;
 - in any discipline or at any grade level within a school division with a shortage of teachers, as defined in the Board of Education's *Regulations Governing the Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas*; or
 - a rural or urban region of the state with a teacher shortage.
- ❑ If, upon completion of the program, the student does not teach, the scholarship-loan must be paid back to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

FUNDING

- ❑ Since 1999, the General Assembly has appropriated \$558,000 from the general fund for the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program. Chapter 847, Item 132.B-C of the 2007 Appropriation Act provided an additional \$150,000 for the 2007-2008 program to fund additional scholarship loans.
- ❑ According to the 2006-2008 Appropriation Act, scholarship amounts are based on \$3,720 per year for full-time students, and shall be prorated for part-time students based on the number of credit hours for which the student has enrolled.
- ❑ The Governor's introduced budget for 2008-2010 provides for \$558,000 in each of the biennium years.
- ❑ The chart below shows the number of VTSLP recipients, the total amount awarded annually, and the average award amount since the 2004-2005 academic year.

Year	Number of Recipients	Total Amount Awarded	Average Award Per Recipient
2004-05	164	\$567,730.00	\$3,461.77
2005-06	155	\$548,700.00	\$3,540.00
2006-07	170	\$558,000.00	\$3,282.35
2007-08 (1/22/08)	194	\$685,145.00	\$3,227.17
Total	683	\$2,352,135.00	\$3,377.00

RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

- ❑ In the spring, each of the Virginia colleges and universities with approved education programs are asked to nominate teacher candidates for the VTSLP based on the established criteria.
- ❑ The percent of colleges or universities submitting nominations by year are as follows:

2004-2005 = 83%
 2005-2006 = 94%
 2006-2007 = 100%
 2007-2008 = 100%

- ❑ The chart below illustrates the number of recipients who accepted the scholarship loan funds per college or university since the 2004-2005 academic year.

Number of Recipients per College or University				
College or University	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Averett University	6	5	4	5
Bluefield College	3	4	4	4
Bridgewater College	8	6	4	4
Christopher Newport University	2	1	6	4
College of William and Mary	9	4	6	8
Eastern Mennonite University	5	4	4	4
Emory and Henry College	9	6	4	5
Ferrum College	3	3	4	3
George Mason University	11	4	5	10
Hampton University	*	*	1	2
Hollins University	*	4	4	2
James Madison University	11	8	7	11
Liberty University	1	6	4	5
Longwood University	9	6	9	8

Number of Recipients per College or University				
College or University	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lynchburg College	1	2	4	2
Mary Baldwin College	2	3	6	4
Marymount University	10	6	7	6
Norfolk State University	3	5	5	5
Old Dominion University	9	7	5	11
Radford University	8	7	6	9
Randolph-Macon College	*	1	4	2
Randolph College	4	2	4	4
Regent University	9	5	4	5
Roanoke College	8	4	4	4
Saint Paul's College	*	*	*	4
Shenandoah University	1	2	6	2
Sweet Briar College	*	2	2	2
University of Mary Washington	4	5	6	5
University of Richmond	3	3	5	5
University of Virginia	9	6	6	12
University of VA's College at Wise	3	2	5	2
Virginia Commonwealth University	8	5	10	12
Virginia Intermont College	*	*	5	3
Virginia State University	*	2	4	5
Virginia Tech	8	7	9	9
Virginia Union University	10	1	4	2
Virginia Wesleyan College	9	5	3	4

* Institution did not submit nominees

- ❑ The chart below reveals the number of recipients per eligibility criterion (critical shortage area, male teacher candidate in an elementary or middle school education program; or minority teacher candidate enrolled in any teacher endorsement area).

Number of Recipients per Criterion				
Criterion	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Art	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Career and Technical Education	n/a	n/a	5	6
Chemistry	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Computer Science	n/a	2	0	n/a
Elementary Education	n/a	n/a	94	96
English	n/a	n/a	n/a	21
English as a Second Language	7	10	7	n/a
Foreign Language	7	7	n/a	10
Health and Physical Education	n/a	n/a	2	n/a
History and Social Science	n/a	30	20	19
Library Media	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mathematics	33	23	32	30
Middle Grades	14	11	n/a	20
Music Education	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reading Specialist	2	2	2	3
Science	21	8	7	3
Special Education	44	39	33	40
Technology Education	4	5	Technology education is included under Career and Technical Education	
Males in Elementary	15	13	22	18
Males in Middle School	n/a	n/a	1	7
Minority Students	21	31	54	32

REPAYMENT OR SERVICE OBLIGATION

- ❑ The Board of Education is authorized to recover total funds awarded as scholarships in the event that scholarship recipients fail to honor the stipulated teaching obligation.
- ❑ A candidate must agree to sign and execute a promissory note payable to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the amount of the loan received.
- ❑ A scholarship loan recipient who has graduated from college and received a teaching license may cancel a note or notes in the principal amount plus any accrued interest, by teaching full-time at the preK-12 level in a designated shortage area in the public schools of Virginia.
- ❑ If the scholarship loan recipient fails to teach in the public schools of Virginia following the first full collegiate session after graduation from college, the note(s) plus any accrued interest, shall become due and payable immediately in one sum or in accordance with a repayment schedule prescribed by the Virginia Department of Education.

Appendix:
**2007-2008 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching
Endorsement Areas in Virginia**

State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2007-2008 School Year

**Prescribed Methodology for Determining Critical Shortage
Teaching Endorsement Areas in Virginia**

Overview:

The **Appropriation Act (Item 132, paragraph B, Chapter 847, 2007 Acts of Assembly)**, requires the Department of Education to report annually to the General Assembly on the critical teaching shortage areas in Virginia. In response to this requirement, data were obtained from the Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel sent by the Department of Education to each of Virginia's school division superintendents in March 2007, to determine qualifications for teachers and administrators. Information requested on the survey was based on school data reports as of October 1, 2006. These data were used to determine 2007-2008 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas in Virginia.

In Virginia, "critical shortage" may be defined in two ways: (1) shortages by subject matter as designated from the top 10 academic disciplines identified in an annual survey of school divisions; or (2) a school personnel vacancy for which a school division receives three or fewer qualified candidates for a position. Determination of critical shortages in specific teaching endorsement areas and their rankings are dependent on the method of calculation used. As such, specific shortage areas identified will differ among school divisions (i.e., geographic regions) and statewide analysis of subject matter designations.

The 2007-2008 top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas identified statewide were determined based on method number two as noted above and prescribed methodology for designation of teacher shortage areas outlined by the U.S. Department of

Education. The process for determination of these areas has been completed in accordance with requirements outlined in *Enclosure A, Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Designation Submission Checklist*, received from that office. The top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement areas were reported to the Virginia Retirement System and are used to determine candidate eligibility for the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan Program. Endorsement areas were ranked according to the most severe academic teaching shortage areas.

The ranking is based on an aggregation of the total number of unfilled positions (for vacancies with three or fewer applications) received in elementary education, special education, foreign languages, career and technical education, and middle education grades six through eight. A total of 38 administrative and teaching areas were taken into account to determine the top 10 critical teaching shortage area assignments.

Methodology:

Data analyses include calculated rankings from the total number of school personnel vacancies for which a school division received three or fewer qualified candidates as of October 1, 2006, as reported in the 2006-2007 Supply and Demand Survey for School Personnel. All 132 school divisions responded to the survey. Respondents reported a total of 1,273 unfilled positions and 884 vacancies for which three or fewer qualified candidates were reported. Additionally, a total of 98,354 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions as of October 1, 2006, were reported. The percentage of FTE teaching positions for all rankings is less than the 5 percent limit allowed by the U. S. Department of Education. Rankings were totaled and the resulting sum ranked to determine teaching area shortages. This approach reflects both the absolute shortage as well as the relative shortage of each teaching endorsement area.

***State of Virginia Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement Areas
for
2007-2008 School Year***

**2007-2008 Top 10 Critical Shortage Teaching Endorsement
Areas in Virginia**

The following represent the top 10 critical shortage teaching endorsement area assignments for 2007-2008:

1. Special Education (speech and language disorders; learning disabilities; emotional disturbance; mental retardation; early childhood special education; visual impairment; hearing impairment; severe disabilities)
2. Elementary Education, preK-6
3. Mathematics, 6-12
4. Middle Grades, 6-8
5. Career and Technical Education
6. Foreign Languages (Spanish, preK-12; French, preK-12)
7. Health and Physical Education, preK-12
8. English, 6-12
9. English as a Second Language, preK-12
10. School Counselor, preK-12