



NCLB NYS Field Memo #01- 2008

February 20, 2008

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
Senior Deputy Commissioner
Office of P-16 Education

/s/

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

/s/

Subject: Updated Information on Student Aid Benefits for Teachers and Data to Support Teacher Workforce Planning

We are pleased to bring you updated information about student aid benefits for teachers and other information that can support your work in teacher preparation, recruitment, retention and professional development.

Federal student aid benefits for teachers. There are many federal student aid benefits for teachers. Each has its own eligibility criteria and application process. A summary of benefits for borrowers of federal student loans is available at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp?tab=repaying>. In addition:

- Teachers who are repaying Federal Stafford, SLS or Direct Loans can call the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 1-800-4FED-AID or 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).
- Teachers who are repaying Federal Perkins Loan borrowers can contact the school that gave them the loan.
- Teachers fulfilling the teaching service obligation for Douglas Scholarships can contact NYSED at kiap@mail.nysed.gov.

- Federal TEACH Grants will be available starting in 2008-2009, as explained at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>. Prospective applicants can contact their college's financial aid office.

Designated shortage areas for selected federal benefits for teachers. The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) requires the New York State Education Department (NYSED) 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. The list is used to determine whether a teacher employed in New York State in school years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 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 2006-2007 and/or 2007-2008 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 2006-2007 and/or 2007-2008 qualifies for cancellation of up to 100 percent of the loan. [Legal authority: 34 CFR 674.53(c)] Other criteria can also be used to qualify for Perkins Loan cancellation, so teachers are advised to contact the financial aid office at the college that gave them their Federal Perkins Loan.
- A Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship recipient who teaches a subject on the list below during 2006-2007 and/or 2007-2008 qualifies for reduction of the teaching service obligation. [Legal authority: 34 CFR 653.50(a)(2)(ii)]

Federally Approved List of New York State Teacher Shortage Areas for School Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 for Selected Federal Student Aid Benefits

The Arts (Art, Music, Theatre, Dance)
Bilingual Education
Career & Technical Education
English (Grades 5-9 and 7-12)
ESOL
Languages Other Than English
Library & School Media Specialist
Mathematics (Grades 5-9 and 7-12)
Other Teaching
Physical Education
Reading & Literacy
Sciences (Grades 5-9 and 7-12)
Special Education-Bilingual
Special Education (Grades 5-9 and 7-12)

Each shortage area on this list had at least 5 percent of FTE teaching assignments in 2006-2007 taught by teachers who were not appropriately certified for the assignments, as required by 34 CFR 682.210(q)(6)(iii).

New York State student aid benefits for teachers and prospective teachers. There are many New York State student aid programs that serve teachers and prospective teachers.

- New York State provides a wide range of grants, scholarships and awards to eligible postsecondary students, including those in teacher preparation programs. Details are available at http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/2/Grants_Scholarships_and_Awards_Quick_Reference.
- New York State awards Math and Science Teaching Incentive Scholarships to encourage students to pursue careers as secondary math and science teachers (grades 7-12). This program provides awards to students attending school at the undergraduate and/or graduate degree level in exchange for five years of full-time employment as secondary education math or science teachers. More information is available at http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/sfc/NYS_Math_and_Science_Teaching_Incentive_Scholarships.
- New York State's Teachers of Tomorrow program, Teacher Opportunity Corps and Teacher/Leader Quality Partnership program provide funds to school districts or to partnerships of school districts and teacher preparation institutions to support pre-service and in-service teachers. More information is available at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/TEACHING/Teacherdevprogramunit.htm>.
- The Intensive Teacher Institute in Bilingual Special Education provides tuition assistance to special education teachers, teachers of students with speech and language disabilities, school psychologists, and social workers who are seeking bilingual extensions or certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Paraprofessionals who are currently working in public schools can also apply for tuition assistance to help them complete the last two years of an undergraduate program leading to certification as a bilingual teacher of students with disabilities. Potential applicants should contact Ms. Jody Sperling at JSperlin@esboces.org for more information.
- The New York State Speech-Language Consortium provides stipends for graduate students who enroll in participating master's degree programs leading to certification and licensure in speech-language pathology. Bilingual individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Karen Bailey-Jones at joneskb@buffalostate.edu for more information.
- The Intensive Teacher Institutes for Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired provide tuition assistance to individuals seeking certification as a Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Programs are available at Dominican College and Hunter College. Interested applicants should contact Dr. Rona Shaw at Dominican College at rona.shaw@dc.edu or Dr. Rosanne Silberman at Hunter College at rosanne.silberman@hunter.cuny.edu for more information.

Information to support teacher workforce planning. The NYSED exceeds federal requirements for identifying teacher shortage areas in order to provide school districts, BOCES, teacher preparation institutions and others with detailed information on teacher supply and demand.

- **Teacher supply and demand reports.** The second annual teacher supply and demand report for New York State and each of its geographic regions, based on data from school year 2005-2006, was presented to the Board of Regents in March 2007 and is available at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/>. The next annual report on teacher supply and demand, based on data from school year 2006-2007, is scheduled for release in the spring of 2008.
- **Reports on the percent of core classes taught by teachers who were not highly qualified.** In January 2007, the NYSED released a report on the percent of classes in core academic subjects in school year 2005-2006 taught by teachers who were not highly qualified. Press release materials are available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts/press-release/20070108/home.htm>. A report for school year 2006-2007 is scheduled for release in the spring of 2008.
- **Databases on teaching certificates issued.** The NYSED created databases that permit users to obtain customized reports to answer questions about the numbers of certificates issued to teachers in recent years. Users can select specific certificate titles, geographic regions, colleges and universities and other options. The databases, which will be updated regularly, were created for the 2007-2008 pilot project for P-16 regional partnerships for teacher quality and are available at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/oris/teaching/workforce/databases.htm> (username=workforce; password=oriswork_7; lower case required).

Additional information. This memo will be posted at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/nclbhome.htm> with all other NCLB NYS Field Memos. Please send questions about it to NCLBNYS@mail.nysed.gov