

<p>IMMEDIATE ACTION: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION TO ALL PRINCIPALS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL TEACHERS</p>
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March 26, 2012

TO THE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSED:

SUBJECT: 2012-2013 Teacher Shortage Areas

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has received approval from the US Department of Education (USDE) for the 2012-2013 teacher shortage areas. Please note the shortage areas have changed from previous years.

The approved statewide teacher shortage areas for the 2012-2013 school year are:

- Bilingual Education/English as a Second Language
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Special Education

The approved shortage areas allow the administrator the ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers and to help reward teachers for their hard work using the loan forgiveness opportunities. School principals can act on behalf of the Commissioner of Education to certify that a teacher has met the minimum qualifications required for certain loan forgiveness programs.

Please see our TEA loan forgiveness website (below) for all requirements for the Federal, State and Public Service loan forgiveness programs available to teachers. All school personnel can take advantage of the public service loan forgiveness program.

We appreciate your help to inform current and future staff about the loan forgiveness opportunities. More information about eligibility for each of the programs and application forms can be found on the TEA website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/loan.aspx>. Thank you for directing teachers to this information and helping them complete the application for loan forgiveness.

For additional information, please feel free to contact me at danielle.biehle@tea.state.tx.us or (512) 936-2166.

Sincerely,

Danielle Biehle
Program Manager
Educator Initiatives