

August 15, 2005

OMB No.: 1840-0595

Expires : 12/31/2007

SUMMARY: This letter is to notify each State of the requirements to submit teacher shortage areas proposals for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years for designation by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dear Chief State School Officer:

This letter gives notice of the closing date for receipt of State-proposed teacher shortage areas for designation by the Department for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. A State that desires to propose teacher shortage areas for designation must submit the information required under the program regulations for the following three programs: the targeted teacher deferment for borrowers under the Family Federal Education Program (FFEL) and Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) programs and the reduction of the teaching obligation for scholars under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program (34 CFR 682.210(b)(11) and 653.40(b)) respectively.

The 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 proposed teacher shortage areas should be received by December 1, 2005 so that teacher shortage areas may be designated for your state for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. If your State does not submit the required written documentation proposing 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 teacher shortage areas, FFEL/SLS borrowers and Douglas scholars who teach in your state may not receive Federal program benefits to which they may be entitled.

We are enclosing with this letter a 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Submission Checklist that itemizes the information that you must submit to the Department so that the appropriate teacher shortage areas may be designated in your state for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years. To speed processing of your proposal, please ensure that each item on the checklist is addressed and that all assurances are clearly stated. If your state chooses not to propose Teacher Shortage Areas, please send a letter noting the applicable school years for which areas are not being designated.

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Enclosed is a copy of the final regulations published in the Federal Register on December 18, 1992 (34 CFR Part 682), regarding the targeted teacher deferment for borrowers under the FFEL and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) programs and the reduction of the teaching obligation for scholars under the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program. Please refer to these regulations, in addition to the enclosed checklist, for assistance in preparing your 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 teacher shortage area proposals.

Proposals sent by regular U.S. mail or special delivery services should be addressed to:

Mary A. Miller
Policy & Budget Development Staff, PPI
Office of Postsecondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW, Room 8066
Washington, DC 20006-8542

Hand delivered proposals will be accepted at the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily (Eastern Standard Time), except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 80 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather and maintain the data needed, and complete the review of the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4651. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission or other questions, write directly to the program manager at the address above. If you prefer, Mary Miller can also be reached by phone ((202) 502-7824) or via e-mail at mary.miller@ed.gov

If you have questions concerning the Stafford/SLS program only, you may call Harold McCullough on (202) 377-4030.

Sincerely,

David A. Bergeron
Director
Policy & Budget Development Staff

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Enclosures

- A - Proposed Teacher Shortage Area Designation Submission Checklist
- B - Final Regulations published in the Federal Register on December 18, 1992 (34 CFR Part 682) regarding the teacher shortage areas/targeted teacher deferments.
- C - Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide List, April 30, 2004.