



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME
04333-0023



Pender Makin
Commissioner

Teacher Shortage Areas for the 2026-2027 School Year

As part of a Federal requirement, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) submits to the U.S. Department of Education teacher shortage areas for designation, based on collected data and public input. **The U.S. Department of Education annually designates teacher shortage areas for purposes of deferment of loan repayments.**

The following are PreK-12 teacher shortage areas for the 2026-2027 school year:

- General Elementary
- Early Childhood
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- English (Middle and Secondary Level)
- Mathematics (Middle and Secondary Level)
- Music
- Science-Physical (Secondary Level)
- Science-Life (Secondary Level)
- Science (Middle Level)
- Social Studies (Middle and Secondary Level)
- World Languages
- Teacher of Students with Disabilities

The Maine DOE is committed to working with school administrative units (SAUs) to represent the needs and shortage areas across the state as accurately as possible. The Maine DOE recognizes the diverse geographic regions and varying conditions that comprise the state's public education system and strives for equitable and accurate representation.

Location: 23 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0023

Phone: 207-624-6600 | **Fax:** 207-624-6700 | **TTY Users:** Call Maine Relay 711 | **Website:** www.maine.gov/doe
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Once the U.S. Department of Education has approved the State's designated shortage areas for 2026-2027, teachers working in those areas will qualify for certain benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations. These benefits are covered by the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFR 682.210(q) enables a borrower who had no outstanding Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan on July 1, 1987 but who had an outstanding FFEL Program loan on July 1, 1993 to qualify for deferment of loan repayment under the Federal Stafford Program anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s);
- 34 CFR 674.53(c) enables Federal Perkins Loan borrowers who are full time teachers of mathematics, science, foreign languages, bilingual education **or any other field of expertise where the State educational agency determined there is a shortage of qualified teachers** to qualify for cancellation of up to 100 percent of their loan; and
- 34 CFR 686.12(d) enables grant recipients to fulfill their teaching obligation under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program.

A State that desires to propose teacher shortage areas for designation must submit the information required under the program regulations for the following programs:

- Targeted teacher deferment for borrowers under the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) and Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) programs (34 CFR 682.210(q));
- Full-time teaching in fields of expertise, cancellation of up to 100 percent of their debt under the Federal Perkins Loan Program (34 CFR 674.53(c)); and
- Teaching obligation fulfillment for recipients under the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program (34 CFR 686).

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To **search Perkins and Stafford Loan Cancellation for Service in Low-Income Schools and Educational Service Agencies** and to determine if a teacher has satisfied certain aspects of the teaching obligation in the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, go to the [Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory](#).

Federal Perkins Loan borrowers should contact the school where they received the loan.