



# Sul Ross State University

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## Supply and Demand on Educators in Texas<sup>1</sup>

The following information has been compiled from information provided by the Texas Education Agency for compliance purposes.<sup>2</sup> No endorsement of the information sources is implied.

As we move into the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century there is an increasing demand for new teachers due in part to an increase in enrollment and high attrition rates as an aging teacher workforce becomes eligible for retirement. In the State of Texas, there continues to be a shortage of secondary mathematics teachers, as well as other specialized certifications.

### Teacher Shortage Information

The United States Department of Education (ED) has approved the 2020-2021 teacher shortage areas submitted by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

The approved state-level shortage areas for the 2020-2021 school year are:

- Bilingual/English as a Second Language – Elementary and Secondary Levels
- Special Education – Elementary and Secondary Levels
- Career and Technical Education – Secondary Levels
- Technology Applications and Computer Science – Elementary and Secondary Levels
- Mathematics – Secondary Levels

The approved shortage areas help administrators support the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers. Information on the national level Teacher Shortage areas can be found on the U.S. Department of Education's website at: <https://tsa.ed.gov/#/reports>.

Typically, teachers are in demand for urban and rural areas, as these communities have the greatest need for teachers. Urban communities also face the added challenge of retaining their teachers, who may be attracted to the higher salaries offered in wealthier suburban school districts. Rural areas typically have difficulty attracting teachers because of their remoteness and lack of amenities.

### Loan Forgiveness Information

Federal, state, and public service loan forgiveness programs are available to teachers.

- All school personnel can take advantage of the public service program. Information can be found on the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness page on the TEA website: <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/educator-initiatives-and-performance/federal-teacher-loan-forgiveness-program>.

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<sup>1</sup> 19 TAC §227.1 (c)(3)(A), "EPPs shall inform all applicants, in writing, of the following:.. (A) the effect of supply and demand forces on the educator workforce in this state; and.

<sup>2</sup> Franklin, Ryan. "2020-2021 Teacher Shortage Areas and Loan Forgiveness Programs" (Austin, TX: Texas Education Agency, 2020).

- Additional loan forgiveness options, including loan forgiveness for educators who are not classroom teachers, are found on the Student Loan Forgiveness for Teachers page on the TEA website at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/educator-initiatives-and-performance/student-loan-forgiveness-for-teachers>. Additional loan forgiveness programs may or may not be affected by Texas shortage area designations.

Educators should contact their loan servicer (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/servicers#my-servicer>) for loan forgiveness information and the amount of loan forgiveness they are eligible to receive. The loan holder, not TEA, has authority regarding the provision of that allowance.

For additional information about teacher loan forgiveness, please email the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Team at: [teacherloanforgiveness@tea.texas.gov](mailto:teacherloanforgiveness@tea.texas.gov).