December 8, 2016

Debi Price
Director of Educator Quality
State of Vermont Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Suite 403
Barre, VT 05641

Dear Debi Price:

Thank you for submitting a report of your State's proposed teacher shortage areas, and providing the appropriate supporting information. The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has evaluated your proposed teacher shortage areas pursuant to specific provisions addressed in regulations concerning Federal student financial aid programs. In particular, 34 CFR Sec. 682.210(q)(6) and 682.210(q)(7) address the prescribed and alternative methodologies to calculate the proposed designated teacher shortage areas as well as the supporting documentation and assurances that must accompany the requested shortage areas.

In response to your submission, the Department has designated the following academic disciplines or subject matter (noted at specific grade levels, if provided) and geographic regions (if reported) as teacher shortage areas during the 2016-2017 school year:

Statewide Academic Disciplines or Subject Matter

Foreign Language–Spanish
Health Education
Library Media Specialist
Music
Principal
School Nurse

Academic Disciplines or Subject Matter in Designated Counties

Educational Technology Specialist (Applicable Counties: Caledonia, Franklin, Lamoille, Orange, and Orleans)
Foreign Language–French (Applicable Counties: Chittenden, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor)

For your information, the Department's approval of the proposed shortage areas in your State may benefit student grant and loan recipients who are qualified to teach in the

academic disciplines, grade levels, and/or geographic regions in your State where the designated teacher shortages currently occur.

These benefits to student financial aid recipients, such as loan cancellations, are indicated in the following regulatory provisions:

- 34 CFR 682.210(b)(5)(ii), (b)(7), (q), and (s) enable 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 Stafford Loan Program anytime within the life of the borrower's loan(s) for up to three years of service as a full-time teacher in a private elementary or secondary school in a teacher shortage area designated by the Department, and as certified by the chief administrative officer of the particular school in which the borrower is teaching;

- 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% of the outstanding balance on the borrower's Federal Perkins loans; 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 (regarding the requirement to serve at least four academic years, within eight years of graduation) by teaching in a "high-need field," which includes academic disciplines/subject areas identified as teacher shortage areas at the time the grant recipient begins teaching in that field.

Please refer Stafford Loan and Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) borrowers who have questions concerning their loans, including the teacher shortage area deferment, to the Federal Student Aid Hotline at 1-800-4FED-AID. Refer Federal Perkins Loan borrowers to the school where they received the loan.

If you have any questions regarding the Department's designation of your State's teacher shortage areas in specific academic disciplines, please contact Freddie Cross by telephone (202) 453-7224 or e-mail at freddie.cross@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Gail McLarnon

Gail McLarnon
Senior Director, Policy Development,
Analysis, and Accreditation