

## **Identification of Critical Need Subject Areas 2026-27**

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has identified the following critical need subject areas and certification fields for purposes of the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program and federal reporting requirements. The data used for determining critical need subject areas were reported by South Carolina school districts through the 2026-27 Annual Supply and Demand Survey administered by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA). Additional teacher certification data have been provided by the SCDE Office of Educator Services.

Determinations were made using the United States Department of Education (USED) formula for designating teacher shortage areas: the percentage of positions in a given subject area (i.e., certification field) that are unfilled, filled by educators in an alternative route program, or filled by educators holding an out-of-field permit.

1. **Middle Level Education** (all certification fields)
  - Middle Level English Language Arts
  - Middle Level Mathematics
  - Middle Level Science
  - Middle Level Social Studies
2. **Special Education** (all certification fields)
  - Special Education: Early Childhood
  - Special Education: Emotional Disabilities
  - Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
  - Special Education: Learning Disabilities
  - Special Education: Multi-categorical
  - Special Education: Severe Disabilities
  - Special Education: Visual Impairments
  - Special Education: Hearing Impairments
3. **Elementary Education**
4. **Business and Marketing Education**
5. **Computer Science**
6. **Early Childhood Education**
7. **Mathematics**
8. **Science** (all fields)
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Earth and Space Science
  - Physics
  - Science
9. **English**
10. **World Languages** (all certification fields)
  - American Sign Language
  - Chinese
  - French
  - German
  - Greek
  - Italian

Japanese  
Latin  
Portuguese  
Russian  
Spanish

11. **School Librarian**
12. **Art Education**
13. **History**
14. **Social Studies** (all certification fields)
  - Economics
  - Geography
  - Government
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
15. **Speech Language Pathologist**
16. **Literacy**
17. **Physical Education**
18. **Music Education** (all certification fields)
  - Choral
  - Instrumental
  - Piano
  - Strings
  - Voice
  - Music
19. **School Psychologist**
20. **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)/Multi-Lingual Learner Program**
21. **Career & Technical Education (CTE)** (all certification fields)
22. **School Counselor**
23. **Theater**
24. **Gifted and Talented Education**
25. **Dance**
26. **Family and Consumer Science**
27. **Montessori Education** (all certification fields)
28. **Health**
29. **Agriculture Education**
30. **Driver Education**
31. **Industrial Technology Education**