

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CODE:	EP-02
COMMITTEE:	Education Professions
DATE:	January 13, 2016

SUBJECT/TITLE

Identification of Geographic Critical Need Schools for the 2016–17 South Carolina Teacher Loan Program

PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to designate the geographic critical need schools for the purpose of the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program.

CRITICAL FACTS

The South Carolina Teacher Loan Program was established by law in 1984. The SBE annually designates the critical subject fields and geographic areas for teacher loan cancellation purposes.

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-20(j) (Supp. 2015) was amended in 2004 to redefine the criteria for designating a school as a critical geographic area. Critical geographic area for purposes of loan forgiveness must be defined as a school that has an absolute rating of below average or unsatisfactory, has an average teacher turnover rate for the past three years that is 20 percent or higher, or meets the poverty index criteria at the 70 percent level or higher.

In June 2006, a proviso was first passed that allowed for the inclusion of special schools, alternative schools, and correctional centers on the list of geographic critical need schools for purposes of loan forgiveness.

School ratings were not calculated for the 2014–15 school year as part of the two-year pause in producing school ratings during the transition to combining the state and federal accountability systems in the 2016–17 school year. As a result, the critical geographic list was compiled using only the teacher turnover rate and poverty index.

TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

- June 2004 S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-20(j) was amended to redefine the criteria for designating a school as a critical geographic area.
- June 2006 The General Assembly passed Proviso 1A.49 allowing for the inclusion of special schools, alternative schools, and

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correctional centers on the list of geographic critical need schools for purposes of loan forgiveness.

The list of critical geographic areas is submitted to the SBE for review and approval.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COST:	N/A
FUND/SOURCE:	N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments: yes no

Name of Attachments: Designation of Geographic Critical Need Schools

RECOMMENDATION

The South Carolina Department of Education recommends that the SBE approve the list of schools to be designated as Geographic Critical Need Schools for the purposes of the South Carolina Teacher Loan Program for 2016–17.

ACTION REQUEST

FOR APPROVAL:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: