



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Critical Academic Licensure Shortage Areas for the 2020-2021 School Year

In accordance with Arkansas Code § 6-15-403, the State Board of Education has authority to annually declare critical academic shortage areas. As described in Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 6-81-608 and 609 (Incentives for Additional Licensure), 6-81-1601 through 6-81-1606 (Financial Incentives for Teaching in Shortage Areas), teachers in shortage areas may be entitled to financial incentives.

The Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has designated the following areas as critical academic shortage areas for the 2020-2021 school year.

Art (K-12)	Business (4-12)	Biology (7-12)	Chemistry (7-12)
French (K-12)	Mathematics (7-12)	Physics (7-12)	Special Education (K-12)

Also under § 6-85-109 (Academic Challenge Scholarship – Priority for Teaching Commitment), there are financial incentives for teaching areas specifically listed in the law. Programs include:

1. State Teacher Education Program (STEP)

STEP is a loan repayment program that offers yearly loan repayment grants to current educators teaching in a subject or geographic shortage area in an Arkansas public school. Teachers must reapply each year and are eligible for up to three years.

<https://scholarships.adhe.edu/financial-aid-for-teachers/>

2. Federal student loan forgiveness as a teacher.

<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher>

More information about these financial aid programs can be found at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Financial Aid Office. Call [501.371.2000](tel:501.371.2000) or click on <http://scholarships.adhe.edu/>.