

## Critical Teacher Shortage Program

- **School Psychologists are vital to the success of students**
  - School psychologists help children and youth succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments for all students that strengthen connections between home and school.
  - The role of school psychologists is critical with the passage of NCLB and the reauthorization of IDEA, which emphasize accountability, student achievement, early intervention, and comprehensive research-based interventions.
  - 1 in 5 children and adolescents will experience a significant mental health problem during their education years.
  
- **Florida is experiencing a critical shortage of school psychologists**
  - NASP recommends a school psychologist to student ratio of 1 to 1000
  - Florida currently has a ratio of over 1 to 2500
  - 4 out of 10 current school psychologists are predicted to retire between 2003 and 2010, more than half by 2015, and 2 out of 3 by 2020
  
- **The Critical Teacher Shortage Program is under-funded**
  - Funding has declined from previous levels (see below)
  - Average awards have been declining every year (see below)

Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Year	Applicants Awarded	Average Award	Prorated Maximum Undergraduate Award	Prorated Maximum Graduate Award	Expended Funds
2000-01	1,614	\$2,972	N/A	N/A	\$4,797,127
2001-02	1,779	\$1,844	\$1,525	\$3,050	\$3,280,503
2002-03	1,834	\$962	\$875	\$1,750	\$1,764,111
2003-04	2,106	\$823	\$660	\$1,320	\$1,732,558
2004-05	2,414	\$696	\$555	\$1,110	\$1,681,220
2005-06	3,027	\$555	\$440	\$ 880	\$1,679,452

Source: Office of Student Financial Assistance Annual Reports to the Commissioner

- Critical Teacher Shortage Program currently funded at \$2,500,000 by legislature (also includes Tuition Reimbursement Program)
- Increased average awards would provide incentive for school psychologists to relocate to Florida
  - Example: Funded at \$10,000,000, the program could provide \$2,500 awards to 4000 educators

- **Loan forgiveness encourages practitioners to stay**
  - The Government Accounting Office found that loan forgiveness recipients were more likely to complete their service commitment and continue service after their obligation had expired
  - Loan forgiveness programs minimize the risk that someone will commit to a particular major to qualify for financial aid, but will not continue in the field or perform their required service

- **Benefits other educators as well**

- 2007-08 Critical Teacher Shortage Areas
  - Exceptional Student Education Programs (ESE)
 

This certification area also includes:

    - \* Autism
    - \* Emotionally Handicapped
    - \* Hearing Impaired
    - \* Mentally Handicapped
    - \* Physically Impaired
    - \* Specific Learning Disabled
    - \* Speech and Language Impaired
    - \* Varying Exceptionalities
    - \* Visually Impaired
  - English for Speakers of Other Languages
  - Foreign Languages
  - Middle and High School Level Mathematics
  - Middle and High School Level Science
  - Reading
  - School Psychology
  - Technology Education - Industrial Arts

- **Cost of Education**

Average Tuition for Specialist Degree in School Psychology in Florida

Florida Residents	Non-Florida Residents
\$26,619.15	\$63,105.09
Median: \$21,650.00	Median: \$62,429.04

- **Example: FSU Graduate Students**

- FSU Class of 2006: 4 out of 13 went out of state (30%)
- FSU Class of 2007: 5 out of 10 are considering working out of state (50%)

## References

“Ensuring Adequate Supply and Distribution Remains Challenging.” 2001. General Accounting Office Testimony before the Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives.

“Office of Student Financial Assistance Annual Reports to the Commissioner” 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Florida Department of Education.

“Supporting Student Success: Remediating the Shortage of School Psychologists.” 2006. National Association of School Psychologists.

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