

# 2002 Teacher Supply and Demand Study

## April 2002

### Introduction

As part of the State Regents' multiple initiatives to reform teacher education preparation programs dating back to 1992, the State Regents have conducted periodic studies to determine the current and future demand for new teachers balanced against the supply of teacher education graduates. The State Regents have partnered with various organizations to conduct these studies, including the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration, and the Council on Professional Teaching Standards. Results of these studies have been used to provide policy makers, teacher preparation programs, common school personnel, and teacher candidates with historic trends and future projections of the supply and demand for teachers in Oklahoma.

The last study commissioned and received by the State Regents in 1998 found that there were no shortage areas in the **production** of teachers; there were some shortage areas in the **hiring** of teachers. For example, there had been the persistent perception that there was a shortage of mathematics teachers. The study found that just over one half of the graduates trained to be math teachers became math teachers in Oklahoma schools (54 percent). Math graduates were opting for fields other than teaching or leaving the state of Oklahoma to teach math. To address these hiring shortages, the State Regents approved recommendations supporting salary supplements and a loan forgiveness program in high demand subject areas and in low supply geographic sections of the state.

The 1998 study listed high school biology, chemistry, physics, and other sciences (earth and computer) as areas of possible shortage, and the following as shortage areas:

- counseling;
- librarians;
- special education;
- art and music;
- foreign language; and
- high school mathematics.