

Southwest Virginia  
Education and  
Training Network

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# SVETN News

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## Qualified Teachers Available through SVETN

The scarcity of qualified teachers is becoming a problem nationwide as well as in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A report from the Committee to Enhance the K-12 Teaching Profession in Virginia states that from 2000 to 2015 the commonwealth's supply of teachers is expected to show a 4 percent decline while its student population is expected to grow by 4 percent. That equates to Virginia facing a severe shortage of teachers. Currently, the Virginia Department of Education has identified mathematics, sciences, technology education, and foreign languages as some of the critical teacher shortage areas. At the same time the quality of teaching, especially in core academic areas, will be expected to remain high to ensure student achievement. The national movement of the No Child Left Behind Act seeks to ensure that all students be taught by highly qualified teachers. Finding qualified teachers for various core classes at times is a daunting task. Some schools in our area may not be able to offer students a variety of courses because a qualified teacher is not readily available. Also, the number of qualifying students may be too few to justify employment of a full time teacher at the school. With SVETN, member schools have the ability to meet both criteria- to offer a variety of classes and to have those classes taught by highly qualified teachers. About this subject, Dr. Brenda Lawson, Superintendent of Tazewell County Public Schools recently said, "Nationwide studies predict a teacher shortage coming. In Tazewell County, the availability of teachers in some content areas has already been a factor that we have had to face. To maintain our commitment to programs of excellence, we must continue to be resourceful. Our fiber optic classrooms allow us to make highly qualified teachers available to students at locations with limited resources. Southwest Virginia is fortunate to have fiber optic classrooms."



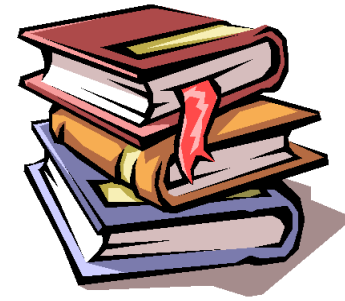
**"Southwest Virginia is fortunate to have fiber optic classrooms."**

*Dr. Brenda Lawson*

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### Praxis I Training

Educators in our area are taking advantage of professional development classes offered by Old Dominion University. The Praxis I Training for the Provisionally Licensed Teacher consists of five (5) one and one-half hour sessions of training in the reading, writing and mathematics components of the exam. Through collaborative efforts between SVETN, ODU and SVHEC these classes are delivered to students in SVETN classrooms in the area. The classes are geared to prepare provisionally licensed teachers prior to taking the Praxis I exam. Twenty-four students are taking advantage of the mathematics session. Eighteen students are enrolled in the writing session and nineteen are taking the reading session. Actual full-length tests and the correct answers with explanations are included in the guide for the classes. We wish each student "Good luck!"



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