

Shortage In Tutor Fields Shows Signs Of Easing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's teacher shortage is easing somewhat in the critical fields of science, mathematics and foreign languages, the National Education Assn. reported today.

In its annual survey, the NEA found that the over-all shortage would be about 135,000 teachers, the same as last fall. It acknowl-

edged its figures were based on an ideal situation, and that there will be a teacher in every classroom when school opens next fall.

The survey did not give a state-by-state breakdown. However, a spot check by The Associated Press last winter indicated that the states suffering the most are California, Michigan, Texas, New

Jersey, New York and Ohio.

The NEA said the 1959 college graduating class promises to produce 6,984 new science teachers, an increase of 28 per cent over 1958. There will be 4,723 new math teachers, up 37 per cent, and 2,005 new foreign language teachers, up 23 per cent.

Altogether, the class of '59 is expected to produce about 125,710 graduates qualified for teaching. This is about 10 per cent higher than last year's teacher crop.

On the basis of past records, it is expected that about 73 per cent — or 92,500 — of these graduates actually will take teaching jobs. Many of the rest will go into other fields because of higher pay of

personal preference.

The NEA said the nation's public schools will need 227,500 new teachers next September, broken down this way:

94,500 to replace those leaving the field.

33,000 to serve increased enrollment.

30,000 to relieve over-crowding and eliminate half-day sessions.

20,000 to provide instruction and services not now provided.

50,000 to replace unprepared or unqualified teachers.

If only 92,500 members of the

class of '59 take teaching jobs, where are the other 135,000 coming from?

The big majority—probably in excess of 90,000—will be college graduates of previous years.

Some, possibly 10 to 15 per cent, will be former women teachers returning to field after dropping out to raise families. Others will be qualified teachers who have worked a year or two at other jobs. Still others will be college graduates who stayed in school to get advanced degrees.

The NEA report didn't list this group as a source of supply. Dr. Ray Maul, director of the survey, said there aren't enough statistics available to give an accurate picture. And, he added, there is a question as to just how well qualified these persons are as teachers.

The one big bar to staffing every classroom with a qualified teacher, Maul said, is the low scale of teachers' salaries.

"If teachers' salaries were competitive with other fields open to

college graduates," he said, "we would soon have all the teachers we need. If we could make teaching financially attractive, our teacher shortage would evaporate overnight."

CHILD DIES IN BAG

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