

Preparation Questions: For Teaching Positions

Be Prepared to Answer the Following Sample Questions You May be Asked when Interviewing for a Teaching Position

1. Briefly describe your background, including high school, college, activities and interests.
2. Why do you want to be a teacher? What differentiates a good teacher from a great one?
3. What are the main priorities in education today? What main things should we do for students?
4. What are your primary strengths as a teacher? What are your weaknesses?
5. Is a student's failure the fault of the teacher? Why or why not?
6. Do you believe that students perform according to their teachers' expectations?
7. What is the key to effective classroom management and discipline?
8. How would you handle a child who is two grade levels or more above the rest of the class? (Interviewer may substitute "two grade levels below" the rest of the class.)
9. What do you hope to be doing in five years? (The interviewer may substitute 10 or 15 years).
10. Tell me about your student teaching and other teaching experiences you have had. Where were they? What type of classes and subjects did you teach? Were you involved in team teaching? What was the most important thing that you learned?
11. What professional organizations do you belong to? What have you learned as a result of your memberships?
12. What recreation, community activities or organizations are you interested or active in? What have you learned as a result of your involvement?
13. Do you think that most students are or are not interested in learning? Why?
14. Is it acceptable for students to disagree openly with teachers? Can you cite an example?
15. As a teacher, what can you contribute to an ethnically diverse classroom environment?
16. Could you describe how you dealt with some particularly tough problems you faced?
17. What are your thoughts on inclusion and mainstreaming?
18. Describe your level of computer competency.
19. Why should we hire you over someone else?

Be Prepared to Ask the Following Sample Questions when Interviewing for a Teaching Position

1. What is the teacher/student ratio in your district?
2. Do you encourage teachers to earn advanced degrees?
3. How many classes a day will I be expected to teach? What is the typical class size?
4. Tell me about the students who attend this school? Can you give a profile of the 'typical' student?
5. What textbooks does the district use in this subject area? What is the district's policy on mainstreaming and inclusion?
6. Do teachers participate in curriculum review and change?
7. What kinds of support staff members are available to help students and teachers?
8. Describe the teachers at this school? Can you give a profile of the 'typical' teacher?
9. How do current staff welcome new teachers?
10. What discipline procedures does the district use? Is there a certain philosophy that you adhere to?
11. How do parents support the school?
12. How does the community support the schools?
13. Do your schools use teacher aides or parent volunteers? What is their role?
14. What allowances are provided for supplies and materials?
15. Describe the status of computer usage at your school? How do you envision it changing during the next three years?
16. Does the administration encourage field trips for students?
17. How are teachers assigned to extracurricular activities?
18. Does the district have a statement of educational philosophy or mission?
19. What are prospects for future growth in this community and its schools?
20. What kind of teacher job commitment is expected by the board, superintendent, principal and parents?