

Interview Questions to Answer and Ask

Interviewers are paid to ask questions! The following questions are representative of those that you are likely to encounter in your interviews. Use these to practice and you will be prepared to communicate your teaching skills.

1. Why do you want to teach?
2. What is your philosophy of education?
3. If students are having difficulty learning a skill or concept, what do you do?
4. Describe your style of teaching.
5. Would you like to be involved in school (community) activities?
6. What do you plan to be doing in five years? What are your career goals?
7. Describe your student teaching experiences.
8. What was your biggest problem in student teaching? How did you resolve it?
9. What three words would your students use to describe you as a teacher?
10. How do you individualize your teaching?
11. What techniques would you use to keep students actively involved and motivated during a lesson?
12. What are the rules of your classroom? How are they established?
13. What are the qualities of an excellent teacher? Which of these qualities do you have?

14. Some of your students always finish their assignments early. How would you deal with the free time that they have?
15. How would you work with students who perform below grade level, especially those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds?
16. What coursework have you taken that you feel has made you an especially competent teacher?
17. How would you use teacher aides and parent volunteers?
18. Are parent/teacher conferences important? Why or why not?
19. Why do you want to work in our district?
20. What materials have you used that you find most effective for the slow learners? The quick learners?
21. Why should our school district hire you?
22. Describe an ideal classroom.
23. Describe the types of quizzes and tests that you give. In a quarter, what types of evaluations compose your quarterly report?
24. A student is consistently late to your class. How do you handle the situation?
25. What would you do, or how would you treat a student who refused to do the work you assigned?
26. How would you handle a student who continually "acted up" in your class?

27. How do you engage a parent in the education of his or her child?
28. How should a student's educational achievement and progress be measured?
29. You know that a staff member has been talking behind your back about what he or she sees as your ineffective teaching methods. What would you do?
30. What do you expect from your supervisor?

Candidates Must Ask Questions, Too

If you are serious about teaching in the district where you are interviewing, there are many questions to which you need to know the answers before you accept an offer. Your interviewer will surely cover some of your questions, but by asking pertinent questions you will show your interviewer that you do understand fundamental issues relating to teaching. You should have several questions in mind before you arrive for your interview. The following 17 questions should give you a good start.

1. What is the teacher/student ratio in your district?
2. Do you encourage teachers to earn graduate degrees?
3. How many classes a day will I be expected to teach?
4. What types of school activities promote parent-teacher-student interaction?
5. Tell me about the students who attend this school.

6. What textbooks does the district use in this subject area?
7. Do teachers participate in curriculum review and change?
8. Does your district promote staff development activities and conferences? What types of programs have the teachers attended in the last year?
9. How does the teaching staff feel about new teachers?
10. What discipline procedures does the district use?
11. Do parents support the schools? Does the community?
12. Do your schools use teacher aides or parent volunteers?
13. To what extent do staff members work collaboratively to solve problems and respond to the needs of students?
14. Does the administration encourage field trips for students?
15. How are teachers assigned to extra-curricular activities? Is compensation provided?
16. Does the district have a statement of educational philosophy or mission?
17. What are prospects for future growth in this community and its schools?

