

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Describe yourself

- Why are you applying for this position? What makes you the preferred candidate over all other people applying and interviewing for this position?
- Please tell us about yourself and why you are applying for a position in our district.
- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- Please share professional experience that you feel make you a qualified candidate for this position.
- How would your students describe yourself as a teacher?
- What extra-curricular activities are you interested in?
- What are some of your hobbies or leisure-time activities?
- What book are you currently reading or have you read recently?
- How would family, friends, colleagues describe you?
- Using one adjective, how would you describe yourself?
- What will your legacy be upon your departure from your current position?
- What special skills or talents will you bring to your classroom?
- What are the most important qualities a teacher should demonstrate?

Strengths/Weaknesses

- What are your greatest strengths as a teacher in the classroom? In the school?
- What are your greatest strengths that you will bring to our district?
- What is your greatest challenge in education and how do you overcome it?
- What is your greatest weakness?
- If I were to ask some of your previous students to describe you, what would they say?
- If you overheard some colleagues talking about you, what would they be saying?

Reflection

- Describe a time when a lesson was not going well; what did you do about it?
- Reflecting on your classroom experience, what stands out as one of the more rewarding moments you have had?
- Describe your best and worst teaching experience to date.
- What aspect(s) of your teaching would you most like to change or improve, and why?
- Considering your educational and/or working career, tell about the most stressful event you ever faced, and how you coped with it.
- Which accomplishment(s) as a teacher makes you most proud? What has been your greatest professional letdown? How do you review the role of criticism in the workplace?

- What are your goals in education? Where do you see yourself five years from now? How does this position fit into your career plans?
- Twenty years from now, what do you want your students to remember about you?

College Education/Certification

- Describe your personal and educational background.
- What course best prepared you for what you want to do?
- In your student teaching placement, what has been the best part of the experience? What was an “eye opener”?
- Would you be willing to teach at a different grade level, or teach a different subject?
- Would you be willing to pursue an extra certificate or credential?

Co-Teaching/Team Teaching

- What is your philosophy of team teaching?
- How do you see yourself partnering with teachers? With administrators?
- Please share some experiences when you have collaborated with a colleague.
- What special skills, personal qualities or talents do you possess that would make you a good team member?

Technology

- Are you comfortable with the use of technology in the classroom? If so, how do you apply technology to enhance instruction and increase student learning?
- How would you incorporate technology in your classroom?
- Describe your ability to use technology and how you would integrate it into your teaching?
- The use of technology in your classroom if there were to be no limitations on access, types, differentiation using technology?

Families

- What do you feel your role is in communicating with families?
- How would you establish positive relationships and communication with the families in this community?
- How often and for what reasons do you communicate with families?
- How do you address family complaints? Please give an example.
- What forms of communication do you use to communicate with families?

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Engaging Lessons

- What techniques do you use to keep students actively involved during a lesson?
- Give examples of how you make math lessons relevant and engaging for all learners?
- Most importantly, how do you “hook” the students and how do you assess their learning during the class?
- What is one thing you have done to differentiate a lesson?
- Provide an overview of your lesson planning and what components are part of an effective lesson?
- What would a typical lesson look like in your classroom?

Assessments

- Describe the methods or various assessments you would use to evaluate the academic progress of your students.
- What are some assessment tools that you use regularly to monitor student academic progress?
- Give me some examples of how you would do formative and summative assessments in your lessons?
- What role do you think homework has for learning?

Behavioral issues with students

- What steps would you take to handle a student who is a consistent behavioral problem in your classroom?
- How do you handle behavioral issues in the classroom?
- As an educator, you will have students with behavior issues in your class, describe your plan for behavior management.

Classroom Management

- Tell me about your classroom management style.
- What effective teaching practices do you employ?
- What kind of classroom management plan do you like best? How would you implement it in your classroom?
- What would it look like if we were walking by your room and stopped and watched for a while?
- What strategies do you employ to maintain order in your room?
- Discuss your philosophy and approach to teaching in general, and describe the learning process in your classroom.
- When disruptions occur, how are they addressed?
- Tell about a time, when you encountered a difficult student or parent, what did you do?

Student Success

- How do you know when students understand the content?
- Can you cite any examples of interdisciplinary activities you have planned and implemented in your classroom?
- What do you consider your most effective teaching strategies and why?
- In what ways will you contribute to promoting a socially and emotionally safe learning environment?

Student/Teacher Rapport

- What strategies do you use in the beginning of the year to get to know your students?
- How do you build relationships with students?
- What are some things that you do to build relationships with students? families? staff?

Educating All Students

- What does differentiation mean to you?
- When trying to meet the needs of diverse learners, what strategies do you employ?
- How do you teach students of differing intellectual abilities?
- What is your experience with special education students?
- How do you differentiate for different levels of ability within one classroom?

Other

- Do you have any questions for us?
- What were you hoping we would ask you today, but didn't?
- Is there anything we haven't asked you that you would like to share with the committee that might help influence our decision?