Education Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a teacher?
2. How would you describe a good teacher?
3. What is individualism and how will you use it in your classroom?
4. Do you want your students to like you?
5. If you were to walk up on two students in your class, what would you want them to be saying about you as a person/teacher?
6. Have any of your lessons ever failed? If so, then how did you feel and what did you do about it?
7. What if two of your students come up with the idea that they want to produce their own class projects instead of the one assigned?
8. How do you know if you are a successful teacher?
9. A teacher is telling you that she hates her job and she is quitting because she doesn't get paid enough money, what do you have to say about that?
10. If I asked Robyn what she thought you were best at doing "teacher wise" what do you think she would say?
11. Multiple choice: Which is more important to you?:
   a. raise in your pay
   b. you are chosen to speak at a curriculum convention in Hawaii
   c. you win the teacher of the year award
   d. a student that never talks and has little confidence finally raises his/her hand to answer a question correctly.
12. Describe a good listener.
13. When a student says they want to be treated fair, what do they mean?
14. Can a teacher ever be too empathetic?
15. You have a hunch that a student can do better, but you're not sure, how do you find out?
16. Is being a teacher more important than any other job?
17. You assign an English assignment and a student tells you that she doesn't think she will like that book and wants an alternative one, what do you do?
18. Do you think humor should be used in the classroom?
19. What would the ideal school be like?
20. Do you ever not meet deadlines? How do you help students meet deadlines?
21. A student comes to you and says that his parents don't understand him, what do you do?
22. What are your goals and aspirations in 5 years?
23. Are you a perfectionist? Do you expect that from your students?
24. What new teaching technique do you want to implement in the classroom?
25. A student ridicules an assignment and says he does not understand it, what do you do?
26. A student tells you that a True/False test is hard for her because she gets confused, and she wants you to either give an oral exam or an alternative...what do you do?
27. How do you get your students excited about learning?
28. Can a teacher ever be too empathetic?
29. Three students work together to design an all day field trip on something that you are studying, but you know your principal won't allow it, what do you do?
30. Do you follow an outline? How closely do you follow it?
31. Are you organized? Do you think it’s important to be organized? Why?
32. What are some things you have read in the last few weeks?
33. After school you see a 16 year old crying because he cheated on a test what do you do?
34. Do you find that you have a strong desire to learn about things? Why do you think that is?
35. Do you think every student should be allowed to do an individual project?
36. Where do you get your information or ideas?
37. Do you people come to you for help with things? Why do you think that is?
38. A student comes to you and says that your class is boring…what do you do?

Background Questions

- What can I do for you today? (“I’m here to discuss the position of…”)
- How have your past experiences prepared you for teaching?
- What grade level do you prefer?
- Describe your educational background. What are your educational goals? What was your favorite subject in college? Why?
- How would you describe your last principal? Department head? Master teacher?
- What five adjectives describe you? What five adjectives describe your teaching style?
- How did you select your major?
- What do you know about our district? What part of your background matches our goals. What new or different ideas would you bring to our district?
- Tell me about your teaching internship experience. What was most effective about you? What have you learned in your experiences? What kind of problems did you have? If you had your internship to do over again, what would you do differently?
- What were your three most important accomplishments during your internship? What has been your most positive teaching experience? Negative experience?
- How have you involved parents in the learning process? Describe how you would establish and maintain positive working relationships with parents.
- What curriculum materials have you developed?
- How have you used paid aides in your classroom?
- What books, concepts or experiences have influenced you the most in your professional development?
- How have you contributed toward the development of the total school program in your current position?

Subject Area and Grade Level Questions

- What do you feel is your strongest subject (or teaching) area? What subject is most difficult for you?
- How would you teach reading in your classroom (math) (science)? Describe a typical lesson.
- What activities do you use with your independent workers during reading?
- What supplementary reading (or other subject) materials do you find most helpful? What resources do you use other than the basal text?
• What do you feel are the most important things students should learn at your grade level (in your classroom, subject area)?
• How do you use math manipulative?
• Describe an ideal curriculum in your area of study.
• Discuss a critical issue in your subject area.
• How have you emphasized the development of basic skills? What skills do you feel are most important at this grade level (or subject)? What math series are you using? Reading series?
• Have you used calculators in your lessons? Computers?
• What should students have gained from having taken your course? Why is your field important for a student to study? How do you view your subject in relation to the total school curriculum?
• (Elementary) Can you handle instruction in physical education, art and music?
• (Secondary) Can you handle three or more preparations at the secondary level?

Teaching Technique Questions – Motivational Skills

• There are times when you have an extra five or ten minutes left at the end of the period. What types of sponge activities do you use to make the best use of this time?
• Define cooperative learning and give an example of how you have used it.
• How would you individualize instruction to meet the needs of all your students? Would individualized instruction be a part of your teaching day?
• Describe a teaching strategy you used to maximize the learning potential of all students.
• Share with me a recent learning experience you developed for your students and how you organized that experience to enhance each student’s success.
• What role does active-participation play in your teaching techniques? Describe an active participation technique you use so you know the students understand the concept.
• How do you motivate students? Name three effective ways to motivate students.
• What innovative ideas would you like to initiate in your classroom?
• What are some examples of your classroom creativity? What strategies would you use to aid students in developing creativity?
• What extracurricular activities would you be willing to supervise?
• How have you stressed the development of cognitive skills within your classes?
• What kind of relationship do you have with your students?
• How do you reinforce self-esteem in students?
• Describe your typical teaching style. What techniques do you use?

Philosophy of Education Questions

• What would be your ideal educational philosophy of a school (district)?
• What do you consider an ideal class size?
• What is your philosophy of homework?
• What are you looking for in a school? A district?
• Would you rather teach the slow learner or the advanced learner? Why?
• What is your philosophy on team teaching? Are you willing to work in a team-teaching situation? An open classroom situation?
• What is your position on behavior modification? Special education? Learning centers? Time-out discipline methods? Competency-based instruction? Use of cooperative learning groups?

- What is your philosophy on grading, report cards, classroom management?
- What are your practices in dealing with controversial subjects?
- What issues in education are of greatest concern to you? Why?
- Describe the role of the teacher (the principal, the student, the counselor) in the learning process.
- How do you personally feel students learn?
- What is the most satisfying aspect of teaching (or managing)? Least satisfying aspect?
- What is most important to you in a position?
- Why do you want a career in teaching? Why do you think you will be a good educator?
- What prompted you to go into the field of education?
- What should schools do for students?
- What is the toughest aspect of teaching today? What are some of the greatest challenges of being an educator?
- What is your greatest concern when in a classroom?
- Define a superior educator. Describe some of the characteristics of an outstanding educator.
- How would you change the public schools if you could make any changes you wish?
- What does teaching really involve?
- What do you like most about being an educator? Least?
- What motivates you?
- How do you cope with stress?
- What are your concerns and outlook for the future of public education?

**Evaluation Questions**

- How will you appraise your own teaching performance? How will you determine if your students are learning?
- What evaluation techniques do you use? Do you grade on ability or effort? Why?
- How would your students describe you? Your colleagues? Principal?
- How do you feel about observations by supervisors?
- How do you communicate with parents about a student’s progress?
- How would you discover your students’ feelings regarding your class?

**Classroom Organization/Lesson Planning Questions**

- How is (was) your classroom organized?
- What type of learning environment do you try to create?
- If I visited your class, what could I expect to find? What would I see that would indicate your program is meeting the needs of each student?
- What kind of grouping do you think is best?
- Do you use homogenous or heterogeneous grouping?
- How would you work with a main streamed learning handicapped student?
- Describe independent student projects your students have complete.
- How do you structure your class to achieve maximum benefit from teacher/student contact?
How do you handle the different ability levels of students? Different cultural levels? The gifted? The educationally or culturally deprived? Limited English-speaking students? How would you help a student who is having difficulty?

Are you well organized?

Do you believe in detailed lesson plans? In lesson planning, how do you organize and prepare your material? How do you use lesson plans?

Describe the specific components or steps of an effective lesson plan.

Outline your approach for preparing a science unit.

Classroom Control/Management Questions

What is your philosophy of discipline? What are your convictions regarding discipline?

What classroom management system do you use?

Explain the structure of your discipline plan. What rules do you establish in your classroom?

How do you handle discipline problems?

What is the toughest aspect of discipline?

How would you handle a student who is a consistent behavioral problem in your class?

How would you handle cheating?

How would you handle a student who refused to do what you asked?

Should schools practice corporal punishment? Why or why not?

If students tell you they have engaged in some illegal or immoral activity, what would you do?

Professional Activities and Knowledge

What do you think about the current events or happenings in education? What is the most exciting event happening in the area of education today?

In what professional organizations do you hold memberships?

How have you recently improved your professional skills? What are your plans for future improvement of professional skills?

Comment on some leaders in education. Cite several authorities in your subject or preparation and comment on them.

What professional journals do you read regularly? What have you read in the last six months or year?

Do you plan to continue your education?

Closing/Ending the Interview Questions

What questions have I not asked, that you wish I would have raised?

What were you prepared to tell me that I have not asked? And, why is this particular information important to communicate?

Why should I hire you?