



### **Questions Interviewers Might Ask**

- What can you tell me about yourself?
- Why do you want to teach?
- What is your philosophy of education?
- What do you enjoy most/least about teaching?
- Describe your style of teaching.
- With what school/community activities would you like to be involved?
- What are your career goals?
- What three words would your students use to describe you?
- What values are most important to you?
- What do you know about our school district?
- Why do you want to work for our school district?
- Why should our school district hire you?
- What is the greatest attribute you can bring to a class of students?
- What plans would you make to improve your professional skills?
- Who influenced you to become a teacher?
- What are the qualities of an excellent teacher, and what are some examples that prove you possess them?
- Describe your ideal classroom.
- What are the most important things students should learn in your classroom?
- If one walked into your classroom on a typical day, what would one see happening?
- What daily or weekly routines would be incorporated into your teaching?
- Describe an ideal curriculum in your area of study.
- Describe the most effective teaching techniques.
- How do you handle a learning activity that completely falls short of your expectations?
- How do you connect your lessons to the “real world”?
- How do you get students excited about learning?
- How do you make learning fun for students?
- What is your favorite/least favorite subject to teach?
- What field trips would you arrange for your class?
- What should schools do for students?
- What is the role of the student in your classroom?
- How do you want your students to view you?
- What experiences have influenced you the most in your professional development?
- Describe your student teaching experiences.
- What were some of the most important things you learned through student teaching?
- What was the most satisfying moment throughout your student teaching?
- What was the most frustrating thing about student teaching?
- What failures have you experienced, and what did you learn from them?
- What technology have you used in your lessons?
- What innovative ideas would you like to initiate in your classroom?
- What is your philosophy on homework?
- What was your biggest problem in student teaching, and how did you resolve it?
- What is your approach to dealing with controversial topics?
- With what kind of student do you most/least like to work?
- Describe the most challenging student you have ever taught.
- How do you develop positive rapport with students?
- How do you make students feel at ease with you, yet still respect you?
- How do you motivate students?
- How do you generate student engagement?
- How do you allow students to express their creativity in your classroom?
- How do you facilitate students using higher order thinking in your class?
- How do you provide support for students with exceptional ability?



- How do you deal with the free time of those students who always finish their assignments early?
- How would you work with students who perform below grade level?
- How would you handle assignments that are handed in late?
- What would you do if a student complained about an assignment you have given?
- How would you handle a student who is consistently late for your class?
- What would your classroom rules be?
- What is your classroom management plan, and what do you hope to accomplish with it?
- What are some ways you can avoid behavior problems?
- How would you handle a student who sleeps in your class?
- How would you handle a student who consistently misbehaves in your classroom?
- What is your opinion of after-school detention?
- When would you send a student to the Principal's/Dean's Office?
- What do you do about a student who is consistently picked on by other students?
- How would you deal with a student who appears depressed?
- How would you reinforce self-esteem in your students?
- How should a student's academic achievement and progress be measured?
- Do you grade on ability or effort?
- Elementary: Can you handle instruction in art, music, and physical education?
- Secondary: Can you handle three or more different class preparations?
- Describe a typical lesson or unit plan in your classroom, including specific instructional activities.
- What would be your approach to teaching reading? writing? mathematics?
- What role does active participation play in your teaching?
- How have you used cooperative learning in your classroom?
- How do you teach a classroom of students with widely differing ability levels?
- How would you individualize instruction to meet the needs of all your students?
- How would you meet the needs of a student with an IEP?
- What is your opinion about mainstreaming?
- What is your viewpoint on ability grouping?
- What does it mean to a fair teacher?
- What grade level do you prefer?
- What is your opinion of standardized testing?
- Describe an interesting article about the area of education that you have read recently.
- What is the most exciting thing happening in the field of education?
- What do you consider to be the most pressing current issue in education?
- What is the biggest challenge in teaching?
- What do you think is the greatest challenge facing students today?
- How would you react if a parent complained about your class?
- How would you use teacher aides and parent volunteers?
- For what reasons would you contact parents?
- What would you include in an Open House presentation to parents? in a back-to-school or weekly newsletter?
- How important do you think parent-teacher conferences are?
- Describe your view of effective parent communication.
- How would you react if a senior staff member criticized some aspect of your teaching?
- What do you expect from your supervisor?
- How can the school/district help you become successful?
- What were you like as a student?
- How would one of your students describe you?
- What would your references say about you?

*Source: American Association for Employment in Education*



### **Questions You Might Ask**

- What do you consider to be the characteristics/qualities of effective teachers?
- How would you characterize the students who attend this district?
- How many students participate in extracurricular activities?
- How involved are teachers in curriculum review and change?
- Do parents and the community actively support the schools in the district?
- How are teachers assigned to extracurricular activities?
- Is there a formal mentoring program for new teachers?
- What type of in-service training does your district provide to teachers?
- What are some common positive remarks about this school/district that you hear from teachers? parents? students?
- What are the greatest challenges that this school/district is currently facing?

*Source: American Association for Employment in Education*

### **Skills Employers Seek in Teacher Candidates**

Accurately assesses student progress	Interacts well with students and parents
Approachable/personable	Knowledgeable
Communicates facts and abstract concepts well	Open to diverse ideas
Conservative attire	Poise/composure in stressful situations
Creative	Professional pride in/commitment to teaching
Dedicated to human potential	Resourceful
Effective leader	Respect for students
Effective listener	Sense of humor
Emotional stability	Strong classroom management skills
Energetic	Strong communication skills
Engages the audience	Strong problem-solving/decision-making skills
Enthusiastic	Team player
Fair/objective	Understands educational theories and practices
Flexible/adaptable	Well-organized

*Source: American Association for Employment in Education*