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

Source: American Association for Employment in Education