Practice Questions for Teaching Interviews

MOTIVATION/EXPERIENCE/TRAINING

- Tell us about yourself.
- Why did you enter the field of teaching?
- What qualities do you have that make you an effective teacher?
- What grade levels or subjects do you prefer to teach?
- Why do you want to teach in our school district?
- Do you have (multicultural, urban, learning problems) teaching experience?
- What do you remember most about your own education?
- What provides you the greatest pleasure in teaching?
- What are your goals in education? How does this position fit into your career plans?
- What are some of your hobbies or leisure time activities?
- Would you be willing to teach at a different grade level (elementary) or teach a different subject (secondary)?
- Would you be willing to pursue an extra certificate or credential?
- What is your philosophy of education?
- What was your biggest problem in student teaching? How did you resolve it?
- What professional development topics most interest you?

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

- How do you meet the range of skills and needs commonly present in a classroom?
- If a teacher wants to be sure pupils will learn a skill to be taught, what should he/she do when teaching?
- How do you stimulate active participation in the classroom?
- How would you use parents in the classroom?
- How would you communicate with a parent regarding a student's progress?
- How would you handle varied reading abilities in the content area?
- What kind of student do you most (least) like to work with?
- What three words would your students use to describe you as a teacher?
- Some of your students always finish their assignments early. How would you deal with free time that they have?

TEACHER Planning/ PREPARATION

- What kinds of planning do you see a teacher doing?
- What types of resource materials do you like to use?
- How do you go about deciding what should be taught in your classroom?
- Describe an ideal classroom.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT/DISCIPLINE

- What discipline methods work for you?
- What is your primary goal with student discipline?
- What are some examples of rules you would have in your classroom?
What types of rewards and consequences would you use?

Describe your most difficult student discipline situation and how you handled it. A student is consistently late to your class. How do you handle the situation? What would you do with a student who refused to do the work you assigned?

**STAFF RAPPORT/RELATIONSHIPS**

- As a teacher new to a school, what would you see yourself doing to contribute to healthy staff relationships and to become part of the staff?
- What should a principal expect from teachers?
  What should teachers expect from the principal?

**CLOSING COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

- What additional talents and skills do you have?
- What extracurricular activities can you supervise? Do you have questions or additional comments for us?

**What to Ask Interviewers**

- What is the teacher/student ratio in your district?
- Does the district have a statement of educational philosophy or mission?
- How does the administration work with teachers to improve instruction?
- Do you offer professional growth opportunities for new teachers?
- Do you encourage teachers to earn advanced degrees?
- Do teachers participate in curriculum review and change?
- Do you have teachers serving in areas for which they do not have full certification?
- How many classes a day will I be expected to teach?
- Tell me about the students who attend this school.
  What discipline procedures does the district use?
  Are there school psychologists, counselors or public agencies who help students and teachers? Do parents support the schools? Does the community?
  What do parents expect of their teachers?
  Do your schools use teacher’s aides or parent volunteers?
  Does the administration encourage field trips for students?
  What are prospects for future growth in this community and its schools?
  What kinds of cross-cultural activities do you offer to the students and the community? (assuming ethnic diversity exists)
- Describe the district's textbook adoption policies.
- What allowances are provided for supplies and materials?
- How are teachers assigned to extracurricular activities? Is compensation provided?

**Extracurricular Responsibilities**

- What is the budget for this activity?
- Are there auxiliary groups involved in the activity?
- Are there fund-raising requirements that are part of this activity?
- May I have a copy of this year's activity calendar?
- Are other faculty members also assigned to this activity?