

# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

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## Questions asked of teaching candidates

Interviews provide the opportunity for you to make a professional presentation of your qualifications for a teaching position. Recruiters will be evaluating your appearance, communication skills, enthusiasm and interest in teaching. Recruiters will be expecting elaboration of experiences on your resume as well as additional information you should wish to provide. Be prepared to discuss current topics such as standards, testing changes, etc.

## Sample questions you might encounter are:

- Tell me about yourself.
- What/who influenced you the most to become a teacher? Why did you choose teaching as your career?
- How have your past experiences prepared you for teaching? What are the characteristics of an effective teacher?
- What do you enjoy most/least about working with young people?
- What classroom management techniques have you used? How effective have they been for you?
- How do you handle discipline problems? What is the most difficult aspect of discipline for you?
- How would you handle a student who is a consistent behavioral problem?
- How do you keep students on task?
- Some students always finish their assignments early. How would you deal with the free time that they have?
- What do you feel are the most important things students learn in your classroom?
- Describe your favorite lesson.
- Describe a teaching strategy you used to maximize the learning potential of all students.
- Describe how you conduct a lesson. Describe the components of an effective lesson plan.
- How would you work with a mainstreamed learning disabled student?
- How do you reinforce self-esteem in students?
- What kind of learning environment do you try to create?
- How do you handle the different ability levels of students? How do you help a student who is having difficulty?
- How will you implement the NYS Learning Standards along with assessment?
- How do you reinforce major ideas or concepts that you want students to learn?
- How do you motivate students? What are several effective ways to motivate students toward active participation in the learning process?
- How do you involve parents in the learning process? How will you inform them of what's going on in your classroom?
- What is your philosophy of teaching?
- What are the three most important strengths you possess that will make you a successful teacher?
- Give me one or two examples of things that you discovered about yourself while student teaching that you would like to improve.
- Tell me about a successful and a not so successful lesson plan that you experienced during your student teaching.
- How do you make students feel at ease around you, while still respecting you?
- How do you show your students that you understand them and their frustrations?
- Through your teaching, do you think students can be changed?
- If I were to spend a week in your classroom, what would I see?
- What should teachers expect from principals? What should principals expect from teachers?
- What issues in education are of greatest concern to you? Why?
- What is the toughest aspect of teaching today? What are some of the greatest challenges of being an educator?
- Use five adjectives to describe yourself that would inspire us to want *you* in our district.
- What books/journal articles have you read in the last six months/year?
- Tell me about one experience you had during student teaching that made you think, "This is why I'm going into teaching."
- What do you want to accomplish in your profession?
- Why should this district hire you?
- What things about yourself would you like to bring out that have not been brought out in the interview?
- What questions do you have that I may be able to answer?