

INTERVIEW TIPS

FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

Consider the following tips when marketing your expertise to potential employers.

Identify specific examples of your teaching success.

Before the interview, identify concrete examples of your ability to impact student learning. Be prepared to share your experience in planning for instruction, student assessment, and working with teachers, parents, and the community. While many preparation programs require candidates to develop portfolios, don't count on having time to walk through your portfolio materials during the interview.

Ask smart questions.

Remember that the interview process is a two-way experience. The interview provides a great opportunity to ask about district/school-level supports and resources to ensure that you have the opportunity to be a successful beginning teacher. Consider the questions below.

- What is the overall retention rate for beginning teachers in your school district/building?
 - Of the new teachers that were hired last year, how many of them are returning for a second year?
- Is there an induction program for beginning teachers?
 - If so, how many years of induction support do new teachers receive?
- What is the major teacher professional development focus for the district/school?
 - How was this topic identified as a need?
- How many formal teaching observations will I receive from the district, my principal, and other teachers?
 - Will I receive timely constructive and actionable feedback from my supervisor?
 - Will I have opportunities to strengthen my practice by observing other teachers?
- Will I have the opportunity to create assessments to demonstrate student learning? Or, does the district/school use a specific assessment program?
 - How many formal testing days are built into the school calendar?
- Is there time built into the school day for collaborative team planning?

Do your homework.

Do some research on the school district before your initial interview. Find out the number of schools and teachers within the district, demographics about the student population, major instructional initiatives, special projects and programs, and community partners. Identify similarities and connections to your teaching experiences that you can mention during the interview.

Dress professionally.

Bring multiple copies of your resume.

Additional resources for New Educators, including webinars on Classroom Management, Cultural Competence and more available at: <http://supported.nea.org/>

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