

## 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.

### Setting you up for success in your first year

We are excited to announce the launch of NEA's Webinar Series to support first year educators in the classroom. Below please see a schedule of webinars NEA's Center for Great Public Schools will be hosting to get you ready. Keep a look out for emails from NEA with more information on how to sign up to participate in the webinars.



**Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup>: 7pm EST**

#### **Interview and Job Search Tips**

The Center for Great Public Schools will host a webinar focused on interviewing and job search tips, resources and strategies. A focus will be on how aspiring educators can best use their portfolio and experience from student teaching during the interview.

**Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>: 7pm EST**

#### **Cultural Competency for New Educators**

The Center for Great Public Schools, in coordination with the NEA's Center for Social Justice, will host a webinar covering cultural competency for new educators with a focus on the Culturally Responsive Educator.

**Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>: 7pm EST**

#### **The Savvy Summer Educator -- Preparing for Your 1st Classroom**

This webinar will focus on how to make the most out of your Summer to prepare to lead your classroom on day one.