

# Interviewing for Prospective Teachers

1. Why do you want to teach?
2. What is your philosophy of education?
3. With what kind of student do you most (least) like to work?
4. Would you describe your style of teaching?
5. Would you like to be involved in school (community) activities?
6. What do you plan to be doing in five years? What are your career goals?
7. Can you describe your student teaching experiences?
8. What was your biggest problem in student teaching? How did you resolve it?
9. What three words would your students use to describe you as a teacher?
10. How do you individualize your teaching?
11. How do you feel that the “rapid learner” should be provided for in your area of teaching?
12. What is the greatest attribute you can bring to a class of students?
13. What are the qualities of an excellent teacher? Which of these qualities do you have?
14. Some of your students always finish their assignments early. How would you deal with the free time that they have?
15. How would you work with students who perform below grade level?
16. What grade level do you prefer? Why?
17. How would you use teacher aides and parent volunteers?
18. Are parent/teacher conferences important? Why or why not?
19. Why do you want to work in our district?
20. Why should our school district hire you?
21. Can you describe an ideal classroom?
22. How do you relate with minority students in the classroom?
23. A student is consistently late to your class. How do you handle the situation?
24. What would you do or how would you treat a student who refused to do the work you assigned?
25. How would you handle a student who continually “acted up” in your class?
26. How should a student’s educational achievement and progress be measured?
27. You know that a staff member has been talking behind your back about what he or she sees as your ineffective teaching methods. What would you do?
28. What do you expect from your supervisor?

## Candidate Questions

If you are serious about teaching in a district, there are questions to which you need to know the answer before accepting the offer. Your interview will cover some of these; but, by asking pertinent questions, you will show that you understand the fundamental issues to teaching. You should have several questions in mind before you arrive for the interview. Some of the following examples should give you some ideas:

1. What is the teacher/student ratio in your district?
2. Do you encourage teachers to earn advanced degrees?
3. How many classes a day will I be expected to teach?
4. Can you tell me about the students who attend this school?
5. What textbooks does the district use in this subject area?
6. Do you have teachers serving in areas for which they do not have full certification?
7. Do teachers participate in curriculum review and change?
8. What support staff members are available to help students and teachers?
9. What discipline procedures does the district use?
10. Do parents support the schools?
11. Do your schools use teacher aides or parent volunteers?
12. What allowances are provided for supplies and materials?
13. How are teachers assigned to extracurricular activities? Is compensation provided?
14. Does the district have a statement of educational philosophy or mission?
15. What are prospects for future growth in this community and its schools?

## Post-Interview

Proper follow-up is extremely important. You have an opportunity to stress your interest in the position and to express your appreciation for the interview.

The courtesy of sending a thank you letter can make a difference by giving you an edge over the other candidates. It is a good practice to mail your thank you letter within 24 hours of the interview.

Don't be surprised if you do not hear from the district right away. School administrators are very busy and cannot call each candidate they meet.

You must take responsibility for your own job search. If you don't hear from a district within two to three weeks following an interview, telephone to inquire about your status as a candidate.

Offer to provide additional information which the district may need to assess your candidacy. Then be patient and let the process transpire. Continual calling may provoke rather than persuade.

Finally, if you don't get an offer now, courtesy and professionalism may keep the door open for a future opportunity.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

0281 Student Success Center | 618.650.3708 | Fax: 618.650.3656  
careerdevelopment@siue.edu | [www.siue.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter](http://www.siue.edu/careerdevelopmentcenter)