



Questions for Teachers to Ask in an Interview

At some point during the interview, you will be expected to ask questions. Unfortunately, candidates often take a somewhat passive role, merely listening and responding to the interviewer's questions. Don't make that mistake. You definitely want to have questions prepared in advance. This will not only help you if your questions are not answered in the course of the interview, but it will also show sincere interest and enthusiasm about the position. Typically, toward the end of the interview, the panel will ask you if you have any questions. At this point, an answer such as, "No, I think you've answered them all" or "No, I can't think of anything," could be detrimental to your interview. The interviewer expects you to be curious and knows that it is impossible for you to know everything there is to know about the position, school, or district. Use the list below to help you develop your own set of questions.

ASKING EMPLOYER QUESTIONS

1. What is the teacher-to-student ration in your district?
2. In what ways do parents get involved with the school?
3. What kinds of multi-cultural activities do you offer the children and the community?
4. Do you encourage teachers to participate in professional development, such as workshops, advanced degrees, etc.?
5. Tell me about the students who attend this school.
6. What textbooks in this subject area does the district prefer?
7. Do teachers participate in curriculum review and change?
8. What discipline or classroom management procedures does the school or district use?
9. Does your school use teacher aides and/or parent volunteers? In what ways?
10. To what extent do staff members work collaboratively to solve problems and respond to the needs of students?
11. Does the administration encourage field trips for students?
12. How are teachers assigned to extracurricular activities?
13. What are the prospects for future growth in this community and its schools?
14. What new innovations or programs has the school or district implemented in the last 2 years?
15. Does the school have a formal or informal mentor teacher program?
16. Are classrooms self-contained or departmentalized?
17. Is team teaching encouraged? In what ways?
18. As an administrator, what are the school district's strengths and development areas?
19. How do administrators offer teacher support if the need arises?
20. What is the next step in the hiring process?

Avoid questions about: salary, school hours, time off for personal/family consideration, and overstressing concerns regarding discipline.

Sources:

2001 Job Search Handbook for Educators, American Association for Employment in Education
Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job, Jack Warner and Clyde Bryan