

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

COMMON QUESTIONS

1. We've all reviewed your resume. Please take a few minutes to bring it to life.
2. Is there anything you want us to know about you that we haven't discussed?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

PEDAGOGY / CONTENT

3. What methods, materials and strategies do you prefer to use to teach in your classroom?
4. What would a lesson in your classroom look like? What are you doing? What are the students doing?
5. What background do you have in the use of educational technology, including computers?
6. What specific technology skills/experience have you used in the classroom?
7. How would you address the needs of a diverse student population? Please discuss specific strategies to address heterogeneity in the classroom.
8. How do you incorporate critical and creative thinking skills into your teaching on a daily basis? Give a specific example.
9. Given a class of 25 students, please describe some of the strategies that you would use in grouping these students for instruction?
10. Talk to me about the academic preparation that you've had here at school in literacy and what you are presently doing, or would do, in the area of literacy in your classroom?
11. Specifically, what academic preparation have you had in teaching mathematics at school?
12. How do you, or would you, individualize instruction in your classroom?
13. What experience have you had with authentic assessment and what kind of assessment tools would I see in your classroom?
14. What is the role of homework?
15. What kind of resources do you need to be an excellent SPED teacher?
16. Tell us about your experiences writing educational plans. How do you handle all the paperwork connected with special education?
17. Can you give a specific example of a strategy or program you established that had a positive impact on student performance? How did you evaluate its effectiveness?
18. Can you give an example of some ways you make adaptations to the curriculum or make accommodations to meet the needs of all children, from the gifted to those with special needs? In what ways do you meet the range of needs within your classroom? Describe a specific example of how you differentiate instruction.

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19. How would you design your language literacy program? What do you think is important in a reading program for second/third grade? How do you help students improve their writing?
20. How do you incorporate the MA Learning Standards in your lesson and / or unit planning
21. What are your experiences with inquiry based learning? How would you apply the inquiry process to teaching science/math?
22. What approaches do you use to assess student learning – where a student is and what kind of progress he/she is making? How do you communicate to students and parents about what you find out? What is your opinion of student-developed self-assessment as an assessment technique?
23. How do you incorporate choice into the learning experiences for children?
24. How do you plan to adapt the curriculum to respond to the differences among the children in your class?
25. Give examples of how you involve students in the learning process.
26. What do you see as advantages/disadvantages of cross grade learning experiences? How would you go about designing cross-grade activities?
27. While the classroom is the primary teaching environment, what other environments might you use to extend your student's learning experiences?
28. Describe the key components in your development of a lesson.
29. Describe what a lesson would look like in your classroom.
30. During the teaching process, how do you make sure that students understand what you are teaching?
31. What approaches do you use to assess student learning – where a student is and what kind of progress he/she is making? How do you communicate to students and parents about what you find out?
32. What role do you see of the Special Education staff within the parameters of your teaching?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT / CLIMATE

33. Describe the stage of development called adolescence and address how middle schools are generally set up to meet the needs of its students.
34. How would you handle a student who is a consistent behavioral problem in your classroom?
35. What rules would you establish for your classroom?
36. What do you do to let students know what you expect of them in terms of behavior? Please describe any experiences you have had developing behavior management programs. How do you create an environment of high expectations for all students?
37. How do you deal with a student whose behaviors are problematic, such as a student who yells out, a student who does not contribute to the group?
38. How do you let students know your expectations and how do you respond when those expectations are not met? (Example, homework expectations, quality of work, respect towards others?)
39. How do you cultivate a classroom climate that encourages a sense of leadership, respect and responsibility? (How do your students know you like and respect them?)
40. What experiences have you had with conflict resolution or peer mediation?
41. How do you help students improve their behavior?
42. What techniques do you use to support interactions between students?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

COMMUNICATION

43. When you work as a member of a team, what type of role do you take?

44. We utilize a full-inclusion model utilizing a team-approach with a special needs and a regular education teacher. What do you see as the strengths and/or weaknesses you might bring to this situation?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

PARENTS

45. How are parents aware of their child's progress in your class?
46. Talk to me about your communication strategies with parents. How would parents know what is going on in your classroom?
47. If a parent comes to you and complains that you are not meeting his/her child's needs (e.g. not challenging, not giving the help that is needed), what would you say? What steps would you take?
48. What is your view of how parents should be involved in their child's education?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

PROFESSIONALISM

49. Please introduce yourself by describing your teaching experiences.
50. Have you identified any weak areas or goals which you would like to accomplish?
51. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself to strengthen your candidacy? Do you have any questions for us?
52. What do you see as some of the challenges facing education today? How has your education prepared you to meet some of those challenges?
53. Describe the best teacher you ever had? Why? The worst? Why?
54. Can you describe a situation that you found challenging, (a situation in which something didn't go as planned)?
55. What professional mistake have you made that you have learned the most from?

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

WRITTEN RESPONSE (WRITING SAMPLE)

56. Johnny has been disruptive in the class, calling out and interrupting lessons. You've made many efforts to address this problem with the student. Write a note to the parent communicating about this situation.

TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

OTHER (GENERIC)

57. If experienced, why are you looking to leave, or did you leave, your last position?
58. If you took out a full-page ad in the Boston Globe and had to describe yourself in only three words, what would those words be?
59. What are you most proud of?
60. Do you have any questions for me?
61. There are many demands on your time in this position, meetings with parents, meetings with the Council, meetings with the Alternative School team, and meetings with grade level colleagues. How do you find balance in your life?
62. Where do you see yourself in five years?
63. What are the most important qualities you will bring to this position and what areas of support will you need?
64. If you had unlimited funds, how would that shape your classroom/teaching?