




Candidate Resources

Preparing for an Interview

TEACHERS *of*
TOMORROW






Preparing effectively for a teacher interview is crucial in demonstrating your qualifications and fit for the teaching position. Below are additional do's and don'ts, resources, and common questions you may encounter in a teacher interview.

Objective:

Effectively communicate your qualifications, fit for the position, and enthusiasm for the role during the interview.



Preparation:

- **Research:** Familiarize yourself with the school's mission, values, and any notable programs or achievements.
 - **Mock Interviews:** Practice responses to common interview questions specific to teaching roles.
 - **Questions to Ask:** Prepare meaningful questions that show your interest in aspects unique to the school or district.
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Do This:

- Do dress professionally and arrive early to the interview.
- Do use specific examples from your teaching experience to illustrate your points during the interview.
- Do show knowledge of current educational trends and discuss how you can integrate or have integrated these into your teaching.
- Do demonstrate your ability to adapt by discussing how you have or can modify your teaching methods to meet diverse student needs.



Don't Include This:

- Don't speak negatively about previous employers or experiences.
- Don't forget to follow up after the interview with a thank-you note, reiterating your interest in the position and summarizing why you are a great fit.
- Don't overlook body language; maintain good eye contact, smile, and use open gestures to convey your enthusiasm and confidence.
- Don't be vague in your responses; be clear and concise and provide details when discussing your qualifications and teaching approach.

Example Interview Questions:

- **What is your teaching philosophy?**
 - Explain your beliefs about education and how they influence your teaching style. Be prepared to align this with the school's mission.
- **How do you differentiate your teaching to accommodate students with varying abilities?**
 - Discuss specific strategies you use, such as tiered assignments, modified assessments, or incorporating technology to ensure all students can access the curriculum.
- **Can you give an example of how you've handled a difficult situation in the classroom?**
 - Choose a situation that shows your problem-solving skills, empathy, and ability to manage classroom dynamics effectively.
- **What strategies do you use to engage students who appear disinterested or disruptive?**
 - Talk about your approaches to maintain student engagement, like interactive learning, personalized learning plans, or behavior management techniques.
- **How do you assess student learning?**
 - Describe the various formative and summative assessments you employ to measure student understanding and inform your teaching practices.





Resources

- **"Ace Your Teacher Interview"** by Anthony D. Fredericks: A comprehensive book offering detailed advice on how to prepare for and succeed in teacher interviews.
- **Glassdoor Career Guides**: Provides strategies and tools to help you prepare for an interview plus other resources to help you land the job!

About the Author

Dr. Jeff L. McCanna is a distinguished educational administrator with significant expertise in human capital management, instructional leadership, and strategic planning. Residing in Spring, Texas, he currently serves as the Officer of Human Capital for Fargo Public Schools in North Dakota, a position he has held since November 2022. In this role, he oversees HR activities, focusing on staffing and retention, and implements effective HR management strategies.

Previously, Dr. McCanna was a Strategic Staffing Coach - Consultant at Texas Tech University's US PREP and Texas Education Association, and Chief of Human Talent at Tomball Independent School District, where he led significant HR initiatives. His career began at Aldine Independent School District, advancing from Principal to Director of Human Resources, where he notably led Parker Intermediate School to five consecutive years of STATE RECOGNIZED status.

Dr. McCanna holds a Doctor of Education from Texas A&M University, a Master's in Education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Social Science from Mayville State University. Honored as Administrator of the Year by the State of Texas in 2003 and recipient of multiple awards from Texas A&M University, Dr. McCanna's leadership is pivotal in advancing educational excellence and nurturing potential across educational communities.

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