


TEACHERS *of*  
TOMORROW

Candidate Resources

# Preparing for an Interview

*for Educators*






Navigating a teacher interview successfully is essential to showcasing your qualifications and suitability for the role. This guide offers valuable resources, practical tips, and insights into common interview questions to help you prepare effectively and make a strong impression.

## Objective

The objective of an interview is to clearly demonstrate your qualifications, convey how well you align with the school's needs and culture, and express genuine enthusiasm for the teaching position. This is your opportunity to make a lasting impression, showcasing not only your skills and experience but also your passion for education and commitment to student success.



## Preparation

- **Research the School and District:** Understand the school's mission, values, and key programs. Familiarize yourself with their curriculum, student demographics, and any recent initiatives.
  - **Know the Role:** Review the job description thoroughly. Be ready to discuss how your experience aligns with the school's needs and goals. Reflect on how your teaching style aligns with the school's culture and how you can contribute to the community.
  - **Mock Interviews:** Practice answering common teaching interview questions, especially those related to classroom management, instructional strategies, and assessment. Consider conducting mock interviews to gain feedback.
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- **Portfolio Preparation:** Prepare a teaching portfolio with sample lesson plans, student work, and other relevant materials. Be ready to discuss how these demonstrate your teaching effectiveness.
- **Classroom Scenarios:** Think through responses to situational questions, such as handling classroom disruptions or integrating technology. Use specific examples from your experience.
- **Questions to Ask:** Prepare questions that show your interest in the school, such as their professional development opportunities, teacher support systems, and measures of success beyond test scores.



## What to Do

### How to Impress in Your Interview

- 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.



## What to Avoid

### Watch Out for These Common Mistakes

- 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.

# Common Teacher Interview Questions

As part of your interview preparation, take some time to write out your responses to the following questions. Reflecting on these in advance will help you articulate your thoughts clearly during the interview and demonstrate your qualifications and alignment with the school's values.



## **1. What is your teaching philosophy?**

Explain your beliefs about education and how they shape your teaching style. Be ready to connect your philosophy with the school's mission and values.

## **2. How do you differentiate your teaching to accommodate students with varying abilities?**

Discuss specific strategies, such as tiered assignments, modified assessments, or using technology, to ensure that all students can access and engage with the curriculum.

## **3. Can you give an example of how you've handled a difficult situation in the classroom?**

Choose an example that demonstrates your problem-solving skills, empathy, and ability to manage classroom dynamics effectively. Highlight how you maintained a positive learning environment.

## **4. What strategies do you use to engage students who appear disinterested or disruptive?**

Share your approaches to maintaining student engagement, such as using interactive lessons, personalized learning plans, or specific behavior management techniques.

## **5. How do you assess student learning?**

Describe the formative and summative assessments you use to measure student understanding. Explain how these assessments inform your teaching and help you support student growth.

## **6. How do you integrate technology into your teaching?**

Discuss the tools and methods you use to enhance learning through technology. Explain how you balance traditional teaching methods with digital tools to improve student outcomes.

## **7. How do you collaborate with colleagues and parents to support student success?**

Talk about your experience working with fellow teachers, administrators, and parents to create a supportive learning environment. Mention specific examples of successful collaboration.

## **8. What steps do you take to create an inclusive classroom environment?**

Explain how you ensure that all students feel valued and included, regardless of their background or abilities. Highlight your commitment to fostering a culturally responsive and equitable classroom.

## **9. How do you handle constructive feedback from administrators or peers?**

Share how you respond to feedback and use it as an opportunity for growth. Provide an example of how you've applied feedback to improve your teaching practice.

## **10. What do you do to continue your professional development?**

Discuss your commitment to ongoing learning, including workshops, courses, or certifications you've pursued to stay current with educational trends and best practices.



## Resources

### **Career Guides on Glassdoor**

- Resources offering strategies and tools for interview preparation, salary negotiation, and more.
- Price: Free

### **Teacher Interview Tips by Indeed**

- Specific tips for teacher interviews, including common questions and best practices to help you stand out.
- Price: Free

### **"Ace Your Teacher Interview" by Anthony D. Fredericks**

- A comprehensive guide with sample questions, answers, and strategies tailored specifically for educators.
- Price: \$18.99 (Paperback)

### **Interview Preparation Courses on LinkedIn Learning**

- Courses covering interview prep, mock interviews, and resume writing, with some education-specific content.
- Price: \$39.99/month (Subscription)

### **Practice Mock Interviews with Big Interview**

- An interactive platform for practicing interview questions with feedback and improvement tips.
- Price: \$79/month or \$249/year

# 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.

**Dr. Jeff L. McCanna**



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