

## Interview Tips

The interview is the most influential factor in the employment process. Hiring officials take several items into consideration during the interview including your expertise in your subject area, communication skills, enthusiasm, understanding of instructional theories and practices, and your commitment to the success of your students.

As you begin to prepare for interviews, keep the following points in mind:

- ♦ Interviewing is a two-way process. Be ready to answer questions and to ask questions.
- ♦ Know yourself and don't try to bluff your way through - phonies are easy to spot.
- ♦ Demonstrate self-confidence in your answers and in your body language.
- ♦ Non-verbal cues send strong messages to recruiters.
- ♦ Professional appearance and etiquette are important elements of successful interviewing.
- ♦ Take key materials along to the interview site - extra resumes, transcripts, and portfolios.

## Key Interview Questions

Employers and job-seekers alike have identified the following questions as key interview questions new teachers will encounter in most interviews:

- ♦ Why did you choose teaching as a career?
- ♦ What is your teaching philosophy?
- ♦ Describe yourself using five adjectives.
- ♦ What worked best for you in classroom control?
- ♦ How did you provide for individual differences within your classroom?
- ♦ What were your most effective ways to motivate students?
- ♦ How did you get students excited about your subject area?
- ♦ What strategies do you use to evaluate student performance?
- ♦ What technology did you use in teaching your subject?
- ♦ Describe in detail a lesson you have taught.
- ♦ Tell me about the type of relationship you established with your students during student teaching.
- ♦ What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
- ♦ Give examples describing your communication with parents.
- ♦ As you look back on your student teaching experience, what was most effective about you? About your style? What was least effective about your teaching style?
- ♦ Why do you want to teach for our school/district?

## Questions to ask employers

Many recruiters will save time at the end of the interview for questions that you would like to ask. Some topics that you may want to inquire about include:

- ♦ Parent and community involvement
- ♦ Support systems for staff and for students
- ♦ Evaluation and assessment methods for students and staff
- ♦ Established policies for student behavior
- ♦ Specific teaching materials in your specialty area(s)
- ♦ Participation in professional development and in-service training