

HOW TO ROCK A TEACHING INTERVIEW

Have you just completed your your student teaching/teacher certification program?

Are you beginning your job search for a classroom teaching position?

Are you wondering how to prepare for a job interview and apply your learning about family engagement?



At a recent NAFSCE student member event, we sat down with Principal Darryl Evans, Director of Family and School Partnerships Sheila Jackson, and Family Coordinator of Title I Education Barbara Scherr to pick their brains about how teacher candidates can best prepare for upcoming teaching interviews.

We've collected their insights on the next few pages; explore the go-to questions that principals ask about family engagement and the questions you should prepare to ask in an interview!

QUESTIONS PRINCIPALS

MAY ASK YOU:

#1

If you had funding for any kind of program, what would you create?

What they're looking for:

- Teachers who look outside the school building for resources to support students
- Learning about how you might use your passions to support the school
- Example: I am passionate about crafting and want to create a craft club for students, where families can also learn new skills. We can source materials from a local arts store.

#2

Would you rather run to work and walk home or walk to work and run home? Why?

What they're looking for:

- Teachers who are excited to come to school and are committed and care about our students and community
- Teachers who see family and community engagement as part of their day-to-day work, and a willingness to support the collective well-being



QUESTIONS PRINCIPALS MAY ASK YOU:

#3

How will you intentionally build relationships with your students' families?



What they're looking for:

- Teachers who will establish positive connections from the beginning with families (e.g. through home visits, phone calls, letters home)
- Teachers who will take the time to learn meaningfully from families and see them as equal partners

#4

Will you be a good fit for our community? What biases are you bringing to this work?

What they're looking for:

- Teachers who have reflected about how their own backgrounds and biases will affect their work with students and their families
- Teachers who have taken the time to learn about the school's culture and community makeup, and identified how they will contribute to it



QUESTIONS YOU

SHOULD ASK:

#1

Can I have a tour of the building? (preferably while kids are there)



What you'll learn:

- How the building operates: the sounds of the classrooms, how the equipment is set up, what the classrooms look like, how adults engage with kids
- What the conditions of the school and the surrounding grounds and community are like

#2 What supports are in place for me as a first year teacher?

What you'll learn:

- Whether or not there is a strong mentoring or new teacher academy program in place
- Where you can look and ask for help, when you inevitably need it
- How you will be able to learn and grow as a first year teacher through provided development opportunities



QUESTIONS YOU

SHOULD ASK:

#3

What are your values around family engagement?

What you'll learn:

- How the school leaders view families (as equal partners to support students vs. an "add on")
- If there will be existing structures in place at the school to help you establish relationships with families (e.g. family/community events and common practices)

#4

What supports are in place at the school/district level to support family engagement?

What you'll learn:

- Whether or not family engagement is seen as a priority at the school and district level
- How the school and district partner with the local community to support students
- What the norms for family engagement are in the district and how they align with your values

