

OVERVIEW

The cooperating teacher is often viewed as the single most important influence by teacher education candidates in the process of learning to teach. They function as both mentors and models; providing reflective conversation, instructional guidance and support for independent teaching. In preparing to accept a student teacher, the cooperating teacher may want to conduct an interview. The following questions are meant to provide a sense of the types of questions that are often asked during a student teacher interview. You may choose to use these or develop your own.

QUESTIONS TO ASK POTENTIAL STUDENT TEACHER

1. Tell me a little about yourself and why you want to be a teacher.
2. What are you hoping to gain from your student teaching experience?
3. What previous experiences have you had working with elementary/secondary-aged children?
4. What have been some of your favorite classes?
5. Can you share an effective instructional strategy you've used or seen demonstrated in a field placement or course?
6. Can you tell me a little about your experience planning for instruction? What are the things you would include or think about when writing a lesson plan?
7. What questions do you have for me?

Suggested information for a cooperating teacher to share during the interview:

- Personal teaching philosophy, approach to behavioral management
- Expectations for the student teachers
- Required curriculums or programs
- Schedule/expectations of school meetings (PLC, Data-Team, Department, Whole-Faculty)
- Building-level programs/initiatives (Ex. PBIS, Workshop Model, Restorative Practices)