Before Your Interview: Important Preparation Tips

☐ Self-Assessment: Reflect on your strengths, achievements, and challenges as an educator. Begin by thinking about your top three strengths and build on specific experiences to share.

☐ Research: Conduct a strong review of the school/district that you are interviewing by looking at their website or the district website. Explore perspectives of people who know the school.

☐ Prepare: Prepare your resume and portfolio to reflect current teaching experiences and consider ways to highlight your portfolio when presented with interview questions.

☐ Review: Review common questions that can arise in an interview. Make sure to prepare strong questions to ask the interviewer about the school and the position.

☐ Practice: Practice interviewing by reviewing responses with a professional and use the “three pass” approach: initial gut reflection, identify experiences, and final polished answers.

General Areas to Review Prior to Interviewing

Think of your strengths and experiences in all of these general areas before reviewing questions:

- Organization
- Communication
- Instruction
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Evaluation

Common Teaching Interview Questions to Review

- Tell me about yourself. (Think of a 30 second response to this based on your education and professional experiences.)
- What do you consider to be your strengths and challenges as a teacher?
- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- Why would you like to student teach in this school or district and work with this population?
- What is your teaching philosophy?
- Share a typical framework of a lesson plan that you would create and facilitate.
- Share your philosophy on classroom management and how you would handle disruptions.
- What makes a lesson effective? How do you organize your time to prepare lesson/unit plans?
- How would you apply advice and instruction from teachers and other staff?
- Tell me about a time when you disagreed with the approach of a colleague.
- Can you share how collaboration will be a part of your teaching experience?
- What expectations do you have of yourself and your students in order to be successful?
- Describe the way you create a sense of community in your classroom.

Tips to Remember for Interview Day

- Be aware of directions and location of interview site ahead of time.
- Always dress professionally; no jeans or casual attire.
- Prepare yourself with important materials (resume, portfolio, references, writing sample, etc.).
- “If you are on time, you are late” – Arrive ten minutes early to get a sense of the school before the interview.
- Be mindful of positive body language (warm smile, nod, eye contact, handshake, etc.).
- Speak clearly and distinctly; avoid rambling, bluffing to unknown questions, or vague responses.
- Familiarize yourself with all individuals that will be in the interview and follow up later with thank you notes.
- Always remember to be an active listener and share your personality and enthusiasm for the position.