Interviews
Know how to articulate:
• Teaching beliefs
• Discipline philosophy
• Your Strengths
• Your Weaknesses
• Why you want to work for the district
• How you will work with parents
• How to make sure you meet the needs of a student with an IEP
• How you will prepare students for standardized assessment
• How you teach to standards
1. Have a teaching portfolio that is filled with lesson plans and student work samples.
2. Make a list of buzzwords and acronyms.
3. Practice sample interview questions.
4. Don’t say anything negative about ANYONE.
5. Dress professionally.
6. Make eye contact with all the interviewers.
7. Research the district beforehand.
8. Use specific examples when discussing teaching experiences.
9. Prepare a good question at the end of the interview.
10. Send a thank you card.

10 Secrets to a Great Interview
Tell us About Yourself.

• 60-second commercial
• Where you graduated
• What you’re certified to teach
• What your teaching and working experiences are.
• Why you would love the job.
How do you teach to state standards?

- Assure them that you always tie into standards
- Explain how you create learning outcomes
- Use portfolio to tie together your teaching and the standards
How will you prepare students for standardized assessments?

- Know the names of tests
- Talk about experiences with preparing students
- Describe the format of the test
Describe your discipline philosophy

- You use positive reinforcement
- You are firm without yelling
- You have appropriate consequences
- You have classroom rules posted clearly on walls
- You set common routines
- You keep students engaged to minimize disruptive behavior
- You adhere to school’s discipline guidelines (have you researched those?)
How do you make sure you meet the needs of a student with an IEP?

- Know what that acronym means
- Read it carefully
- Ask questions of another team member who can help you
- Follow the requirements word for word
How do you communicate with parents?

• Weekly newsletter
• Assignment book that must be signed
• Describe your open-door policy
Off-limits:
Race
Age
Religion
Color
Place of birth
Disability
Marital status
Children
What About Those Nerves?
Take a Deep Breath or Two

Deep Breathing

• (a) Draw a long, deep breath.
• (b) Hold for 2 or 3 seconds.
• (c) Exhale slowly and completely.
• (d) As you exhale, let your shoulders drop. Feel relaxation flow into your arms and hands.
• (e) Think “I am Relaxed” as you exhale.
**PRACTICE!!!**

- Review and answer “out loud” your responses to standard interview questions
- Schedule a Mock Interview
- Practice interviewing with a friend or group of friends
- Utilize virtual resources
“High Power” body language (top row) vs. “Low Power” body language (bottom row)

(Images courtesy of Amy Cuddy, Harvard University)