

## **Advice on Getting Hired**

(from a veteran teacher)

There are several ways to help yourself: First - know the hiring procedures and people responsible in the district to which you are applying. Simple mistakes on paperwork or forgetting one piece of the process can cost you consideration for an opening.

Second - get help selling yourself. Ask for honest criticism of your resume, application information, and ESPECIALLY your interviewing skills. The paperwork is your first introduction to prospective employers. Make sure you refer to elements of emphasis that a particular state or district may have (i.e. curriculum alignment, service learning, AP offerings, collaborative teaching, reading across the curriculum, quadrant D, smaller learning communities/ personalization) in your application and/or letter of interest. Keep your letter of interest to one page, but send it to everyone you can identify - HR director, curriculum supervisor, building principal. And for goodness sake, make SURE you spell correctly and use proper grammar!

Third - know what you're willing to do to get a foot in the door in a district or to get your first job. That may mean taking a position that requires traveling from room to room or building to building. It may mean teaching less-than-ideal courses or difficult student populations. Look at those as opportunities to expand your expertise rather than hoop-jumping. If you can bring excitement to a course that isn't your favorite, you and your students will be successful. If you can teach reluctant learners, you can teach anyone! You may also need to add to the list of endorsements you have. The need for highly qualified teachers makes finding the right applicant very difficult, especially for small school districts that may have to find someone who can teach more than one subject. Are you willing to also teach a class outside your primary endorsement? Will you volunteer to coach a sport or academic club? Don't wait to be asked -- state it up front!

Basically it comes down to this: you have to sell yourself. YOU are really the product, not your license or certificate.