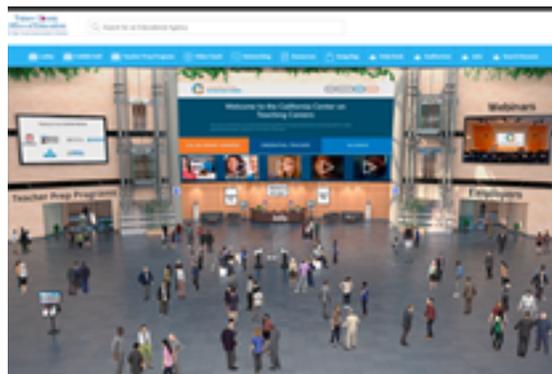


California Center on Teaching Careers FAQ - Virtual Fairs for Candidates Spring 2019



How do I participate in the Virtual Fair?

Candidates must register online using the link listed on the registration flyer.

Do I have to register to participate?

Yes. Indicate what type of teaching position(s) you are interested in, as this will assist agency and applicant interaction.

Can I still register for the fair on the day of the event?

Yes. Please go to the registration link and register. You can then login and participate on the virtual fair.

What is the difference between a Virtual Fair and a “live” or fact-to-face teacher fair?

Instead of traveling to a “live” teacher fair, where you stand in line to talk to district representatives, with a virtual fair you will interact with district representatives via chat or video conference with your mobile device or laptop/desktop. You can view all districts participating by looking at their virtual booths, and interact via chat with as many representatives as you want without traveling or waiting in line.

Is there a cost to participate in the Virtual Fair?

No. The Virtual Fair is free to candidates.

Once I register online, what do I need to do to prepare for a Virtual Fair?

Determine what type of teaching position you are interested in, and plan to visit participating education agencies with those openings. You will be able to login to the website prior to the event to view the Virtual Fair lobby and exhibitors, but you will not be able interact with representatives or webinars until the event is live. You will be able to edit your registration after it is submitted if you wish to make revisions.

Include with your registration the following:

- *resume (required),*
- *photo (not required),*

What technology do I need for a Virtual Fair?

You will need access to WiFi, and your device will need to have a camera if you plan to video conference with agencies. Be aware of the background behind you when you are engaged in a live video chat, and any background noises in your immediate area as sounds will be transmitted to the receiver.

What is the preferred web browser to use to access the Virtual Fair platform?

We recommend you use Google Chrome, Safari, or Firefox for best performance.

What does a Virtual Fair look like?

After logging in to the Virtual Fair, you will see an exhibit hall with an information desk, as well as doors leading into several rooms. Click on the information desk for assistance, or click on the doors to enter the webinars or the exhibit hall where districts will be represented by booths. Click on a booth to interact with an agency representative. You can schedule a one-on-one chat, group chat, or video chat.

What should I wear?

Although you are not traveling to a live event, you will have the opportunity to video chat with representatives. Dressing professionally is recommended.

If I register but do not attend the live event, can I still access the Virtual Fair?

Yes. You will be able to login to the Virtual Fair website at the conclusion of the event to view participating agencies and resources. However, after the event, interviews and chats will not be available.

How long should I plan to be online for the event?

This is one of the advantages of a virtual fair; you can log in and out at your convenience. You can browse through agency booths, review resources, and attend live webinars. (Remember to eliminate background distractions when you video conference.) The longer you participate in the event, the more you will benefit from all information and resources available.

What if I'm still in high school, can I register and attend the event?

You may find this experience helpful as you consider a career as a teacher. We encourage you to register and browse through the event. However, you should plan to upload a letter with your registration stating you are currently a high school student and considering becoming a teacher. If you wish to speak with school representatives, please let them know early in the conversation that you are currently in high school. You may be directed to speak with one of the participating universities regarding options for obtaining a bachelor degree and teaching credential.

I'm in college, but don't have a bachelor's degree, and I'm thinking of becoming a teacher. Would it be beneficial for me to attend?

Yes. One of the goals of the Virtual Fair is not only to assist teachers and teacher candidates find jobs, but to assist those who are thinking about becoming teachers discover pathways and opportunities towards meeting goals to become a teacher. Attending the event, will be representatives from California school agencies, as well as California universities who will be happy to provide information on how to become a California teacher.

I'm a career changer. Will school agencies be interested in talking to me?

Yes. School agencies will want to speak to credentialed teachers and teacher candidates, including career changers as they plan for staffing for the 2019-2020 school year. Let agencies know if you are enrolled or plan to be enrolled in a credential program. (See answer to above question.)

I'm from outside California or outside the United States. Should I plan to attend?

Yes. Upload your resume when you register, as well as any teaching certificates you hold.

How will I engage with the agency recruiter?

You be able to talk to recruiters via chat or video chat. Agencies will indicate when they are available for chat sessions during the 2-day event. You may want to visit agencies you are interested in and schedule your visit to the Virtual Fair accordingly. At agency booths, you can sign up for a time the agency will be available and begin a chat or video session at that scheduled time. If you are unable to connect during your scheduled time, please revise your selection, or contact the agency. You will also have the opportunity to participate in group chat sessions.

What should I do if I get hired? Should I keep attending the event?

The hiring agency will provide follow-up information if you get hired at this event.

If you are hired during the Virtual Fair, you can continue to explore resources and visit other agency booths.

Benefits to attending the Virtual Fair

1. No travel required, and no travel expenses
2. Larger exposure to school agencies, which will be represented throughout California
3. Participating in chats or video conferences may result in additional communication with agencies following the event.
4. Networking with agencies and universities that will help establish valuable contacts.
5. Ability to view open positions with multiple agencies from one platform
6. Experience in interviewing, improving interview strategies, and discovering what districts are looking for in a teacher

Tips on how to succeed in a Virtual Fair

1. Spend time learning about the agencies before you engage with a representative. Look at the information available in their booth. You can also view the agency website.
2. Prepare well-written communications for your Virtual Fair chat sessions. Be sure to use full sentences and avoid slang and emoticons. Prepare a brief introduction about who you are, details about your educational/professional background, and what types of opportunities you are interested. Be brief and to the point.
3. Follow up with each agency recruiter you speak with. Get contact information so you can easily email them to follow up on job opportunities. Within 48 hours of the event, write a thank you note and reiterate why you are a good candidate.