

## **A Note From the Author**

The AA Study Guide is unique in that it addresses the specific needs of non-native English speakers preparing to take the CBEST. It reflects many years of my experience in teaching Chinese Americans writing and language strategies for passing the CBEST. No other study guide provides this depth of experience.

The AA Study Guide includes useful test-taking strategies in writing and reading, grammar points, the “Do’s” and “Don’ts” in writing and sample essays from topics that were actually on the CBEST. Often, topics are repeated, so this is another advantage. The Study Guide also includes teacher and student essays from previous classes, so one can see the good and the bad, the strong points as well as weaknesses. Yet another advantage is the collection of newspaper editorials and articles regarding social and education issues in the reading section. These articles serve to provide information (“the beef”) in writing essays. Each article represents one potential CBEST writing topic. Finally the Guide includes quizzes and a mock test in the math section. In short, the AA Study Guide is the single best preparation tool for passing the CBEST.

As an added benefit, the AA Study Guide goes beyond mere test preparation. It is an education in the American educational system. It contains an education terminology acronyms list. For example: Individual Education Plan (IEP), English Language Learners (ELL, formerly ESL), Gifted and Talented Program (GATE). It is essential for one to be familiar with these acronyms and comfortable in using them so that in interviewing for a position one doesn’t appear ignorant.

The AA Study Guide also has unique teaching job interview strategies including (and this is a first) - 20 of the most frequently asked questions. As the author, I am extremely proud of this portion of the Guide. Over the years of teaching, I have consulted with numerous school principals and gathered the questions most frequently asked during interviews. Additionally, there are useful interview guidelines, plus an actual form used by most school district interview panelists in REAL interviews!

Tip for the school job interview: There’s an old (and true) saying. “You have only one chance to make a good first impression.” Dress appropriately for your interview; make eye contact with the interviewer and answer questions forthrightly and honestly. Don’t try to guess what the interviewer wants to hear and then attempt to please. Honesty is always the best policy. It will serve you well.