

Teacher Applicant

After being interviewed by the school administration,
the teaching prospect said,
*"Let me see if I've got this right: You want me to go
into that room with all those kids,*

**correct their disruptive behavior,
observe them for signs of abuse,
monitor their dress habits,
censor their T-shirt messages, and
instill in them a love for learning.
You want me to check their backpacks for weapons,
wage war on drugs and
sexually transmitted diseases, and
raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.
You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship,
sportsmanship and fair play, and
how to register to vote,
balance a checkbook, and
apply for a job.
You want me to check their heads for lice,
recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and
make sure that they all pass the state exams.
You want me to provide them with
an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and
communicate regularly with their parents by
letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.**

**You want me to do all this with
a piece of chalk,
a blackboard,
a bulletin board,
a few books,
a big smile, and
a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.
You want me to do all this and then you tell me...**

I CAN'T PRAY?"