Here is a more detailed explanation by Vivian Ekchian of the revamped hiring process for teachers in L.A. Unified:

Los Angeles Unified School District's hiring process now utilizes multiple measures to determine candidate talent and potential. In addition to verification of teacher licensing and content knowledge, past experiences are thoroughly reviewed and former supervisors are contacted to determine previous performance. Candidates complete essay prompts that assess their ability to respond to student behavioral and academic needs in a culturally sensitive and relevant manner. Further, candidates participate in a comprehensive interview that assesses their ability to design and implement instruction that meets the needs of our diverse student body. Finally, candidates must demonstrate their ability by teaching a sample lesson before a panel of administrators, demonstrating that they are able to put theory into action. The demonstration lesson provides evidence that the candidates possess the background, skills and knowledge to enable student and teacher success.

We only hire candidates who are well prepared and have high expectations of themselves and their students!