

Preface

Thank you for purchasing this informational book on how to become a successful substitute teacher. I sincerely hope that it will lead you to an enjoyable part-time career in education. The investment of time and money upfront is minimal – you may not even need a college degree – thus making it a relatively risk-free endeavor.

I was first introduced to the idea of becoming a substitute by an acquaintance who was already substitute teaching (“subbing”) as a second part-time job. We met at a time in my life when I felt stifled and unappreciated in my full-time local government position. I still remember that moment during our conversation about subbing when I felt a window of opportunity open up. This was a way to leave my present employment and avoid moving into yet another dead-end, cubicle-dwelling job. Prior to this meeting, it had not occurred to me that non-educators were eligible to substitute teach. At that point I had a degree, but no training in education whatsoever. As soon as I found out that the state’s educational requirement was a bachelor’s degree in any subject area -- that cinched it. (I found out later that many states only require 20 credit hours of college or even just a high school diploma.)

Two months later I had quit my full-time job and moved on to substitute teaching in my local school district. I worked three to four days per week, thus leaving me time to figure out what other types of part-time work I wanted to pursue. Although I had to cut back on my spending because of the cut in pay, I was making enough to support myself.¹ The reduced income was worth the change because what really mattered was that I was free from my cubicle!

A short time later I moved back to my home state of Ohio and continued to substitute for several years while pursuing other part-time opportunities on the side. Subbing gave me the flexibility I needed to explore other avenues of interest in my life, such as writing this book, while providing an extra stream of income. I know it can offer comparable benefits for you as well.

All of my experiences with substitute teaching have been in a public school setting, so not all of the information I present here may be relevant or accurate for private or parochial school systems. Although I would venture to say there are more similarities than differences.

¹ For more information on how to effectively scale back your spending habits in order to live on less income, even just temporarily, please read *Your Money or Your Life* by Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin or any of the other good books available on voluntary simplicity. Check your local library for copies.