



## **SUBSTITUTE TEACHING – WHY?**

One of the easiest ways to get a job is to have relevant job experience in the field that you want to work in, and substitute teaching offers an abundance of valuable experience.

Substitute teachers often move among many different schools, and teach a variety of different subjects in a number of classrooms, making it one of the best ways to gain the skills needed for moving into a teaching career.

Simply stated, those with subbing experience have a clear advantage over those without teaching experience when applying for jobs. It gives those considering a teaching career the opportunity to try out different grade levels, subjects, and areas in which to specialize.

For those who choose to work as a substitute, there are many ways to take advantage of, and learn from teachers working in the same building or in the next classroom. For instance, it's easy while substituting to simply attend to the lesson plans that the absent teacher has prepared, or try to keep students busy and engaged. It's easy, in other words, to isolate oneself in a classroom.

But, substitutes need to think of the school they're subbing in as a wider classroom for themselves. There are well-experienced teachers, resource staff employees, and principals who you can learn from. They are a valuable resource to network with, gather information about teaching methods from, and ways to prepare for becoming an effective educator.

In addition, school district personnel are the key people that will write letters of reference when substitutes are looking for permanent jobs. They are also future employers - if and when permanent jobs come available.

Substitutes also need to network with school administrators, keeping in mind that all communications should stay professional and centered on teaching and education. Even written communications to these individuals can make a positive impression.