

More substitute teachers needed in Ohio

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TOLEDO - There is a shortage of qualified substitute teachers in our area and across the state, according to school officials.

We found out why this is happening and the effect it's having on schools.

"Education isn't as easy as it used to be. It's a very difficult business," said Marty Perlaky, biology teacher and Springfield Education Association president.

When he needs to take a day off, he typically has to play catch up. More times than not, he says there isn't a sub to take his place, so different teachers have to fill in throughout the day.

"It's not easy. You have to do twice as much work and then if the day doesn't go well while you are gone you have to do again twice as much work when you return," Perlaky said. "The bottom line is I still need an adult who is in that room who is responsible for what goes on. That's the biggest problem we are running into is coming up with enough adults who have the credentials to be in a classroom."

[Springfield Schools](#) Superintendent Michael O'Shea says it's a two part problem. Changes in state law are pushing more teachers to retire, and less students are choosing education for their careers.

"There are fewer young men and women going into the profession. It's a very challenging, not entirely well compensated profession," O'Shea said. "The days of sliding a movie in and just babysitting for the day, those are long gone. We need qualified subs that can step in and carry on the lesson plan so that the process isn't interrupted any more than necessary."

Both Springfield and [Toledo Public School](#) officials say they are always taking applications for subs. The criteria for both is similar. You must have a bachelors degree, a substitute license and pass a background check.

If you get the position, you can limit your schedule as well your subject area. Also, you're typically eligible to sub for more than one district at a time, and O'Shea says it's a great way to gain classroom experience which can lead to full time positions. Just know what you're getting into before applying.

"It's a challenging profession. It's a tough job, but very rewarding for the right individual," O'Shea said.

The district is also taking [applications](#) for food service and transportation subs.