

The Register-Mail

By [Ben Zigterman](#)

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Substitutes in short supply around Galesburg

GALESBURG — As a GateHouse Media study suggests the use of substitute teachers is on the rise, local school districts have been facing a shortage of substitute teachers and have been raising their pay.

In August 2015, the Galesburg District 205 School Board voted to raise the daily rate for substitutes from \$75 to \$85 to remain competitive with local school districts, all of whom pay at least \$75 a day.

"We have had a shortage of substitutes and have had situations where classrooms have had to be internally covered," Human Resources Director Jon Bradburn [said at the time](#).

And at United District 304, its school board voted to raise the rate from \$80 to \$90 a day for this coming school year.

"Obviously, this is a reaction to the difficulty in finding subs," United Superintendent Jeff Whitsitt said. "(The) problem is when we all raise them we all compete for the same people. (It's a) never ending cycle of increased costs and thin amount of resources."

The shortage stems in part from the cost and requirements to become a substitute teacher, Regional Superintendent Jodi Scott said.

"It's a combination of a lot of things," she said. "Some of the requirements have become a little more difficult, the fees have gone up, and maybe we need more subs."

It costs \$200 in fees to get a substitute teaching license, and this license must be renewed every five years.

To become a substitute, those interested need to have a bachelor's degree or Professional Educator License and apply to become one with the Illinois State Board of Education. This application costs \$100.

Then they need to have their college send their transcript to the state board of education or the regional office of education to prove they have a bachelor's degree, and after that they need to register the substitute license, which costs another \$50.

Then if the substitute wants to teach in ROE 33, he or she needs to have had a physical within the past three months and be fingerprinted, which costs another \$50.

There's also a testing requirement, Scott said, but this might be eliminated.

When one signs up with ROE 33, she says what grade levels and schools she wants to sub in and the times they are available.

One also needs to contact the local school district he wants to sub in to fill out an application and payroll information, Galesburg's HR Director Jon Bradburn said.

Substitute Teacher Pay



*United is raising its rate to \$90 per day next year.

Data: Local school districts

<http://www.galesburg.com/news/20160529/document/p1>

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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How can I obtain a substitute teaching license?

A substitute teaching license, valid for substitute teaching in grades PK-12 in any county in Illinois, may be issued to individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

To apply, individuals may submit an application online at www.isbe.net in the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). A \$100 fee will be assessed electronically when the application is submitted. After submitting their application, individuals should have an official transcript sent from their college showing an awarded bachelor's degree sent to ISBE or to the Regional Office of Education, 105 North E St., Suite 1, Monmouth, IL 61462 (call 309/734-6822 if you have questions).

To be valid for teaching, a substitute license must be registered in ELIS after it is issued. The license is valid for five years and may be renewed if the educator has passed the Illinois test of basic skills (TAP 400.) The test of basic skills may be waived with a composite score of 22 and a combined English/Writing score of 19 or higher on the ACT Plus Writing, a composite score of 1030 (mathematics + critical reading) and a writing score of 450 or higher on the SAT, or an ACT WorkKeys assessment with the following scores: Math- 4, Reading- 4, Writing-3.

An individual who has passed a test of basic skills for the first licensure renewal is not required to retake the test for further renewals.

Please note: Individuals who hold a lapsed professional educator license (PEL) and owed professional development are not eligible to obtain a substitute teaching license.

If your PEL is lapsed and you do not owe professional development, you may obtain a substitute teaching license. Individuals who have had their PEL or ELS suspended or revoked and have not met the renewal requirements are not eligible to obtain a new substitute teaching license.

To be a substitute teacher in the Regional Office of Education #33, Henderson-Knox-Mercer-Warren Counties, you must be fingerprinted for our region and have a recent physical (within 3 months of application). Please call 309/734-6822 or 309/345-3828 for further details.