Substantial

EDUCATION'S ULTIMATE MAKE-IT-HAPPEN PEOPLE

OUR PURPOSE

Substantial is a national nonprofit working to improve substitute teaching. We are experts in how substitute teaching systems work and we're dedicated to the enormous potential to make sub systems work better for students, teachers and substitutes. Substantial was incubated at Stanford's dschool and participated in AT&T Aspire EdTech Accelerator. We pair our deep knowledge of education systems with human-centered design to create tools and strategies that improve - and often transform - how substitute teaching works. Schools across the country use our technology products to make substitute teaching work better for their students:

Substitute Teaching: Background

SCALE

At any given moment, **10%** of the teachers in U.S. classrooms are subs. So, the average student will have one full year of their K-12 education taught by substitute teachers.

Source Link

COVERAGE

The average sub coverage rate across the country is only **80%** - meaning that for every 100 subs requested, 80 subs are actually placed in classrooms.

Source Link

TRAINING

44% of district leaders say they provide no training for substitute teachers. Just 11% offer training in a sub's most central role: classroom management.
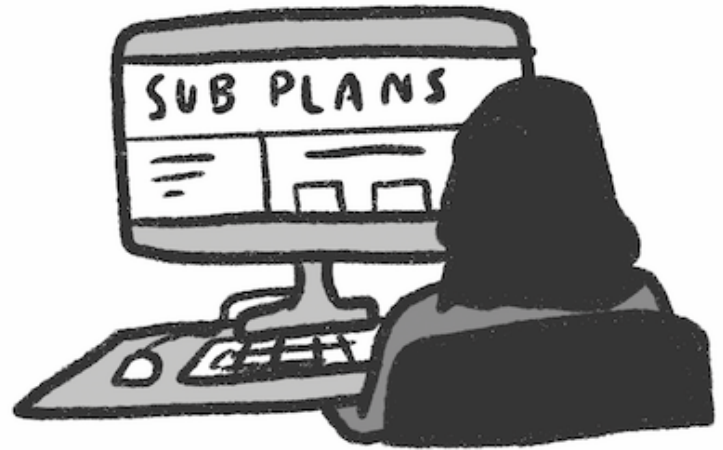
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In almost every school system in the U.S., substitute teaching works the same way: a central pool of subs work across a region, meaning subs move in and out of schools, often working in multiple classrooms a week. Subs select their own assignments through a centralized system, and can work whenever and wherever they choose. But, **the system doesn't work**. In nearly every area, there aren't enough subs to fill the number of vacancies each day. Schools that serve higher-income students get more coverage than those that serve lower-income students. And, the substitutes that are working are under-trained and under-supported. When substitute teaching isn't working, there are lots of ripple effects: administrators step in to teach, professional development is canceled, teachers work through sickness, and most consistently, students spend less time learning. The 100-year-old substitute teaching system is long overdue for an update - it was never designed for student learning or as a path toward sustainable careers for subs.

SubPlans

SubPlans helps schools and teachers provide more complete and consistent information to substitute teachers, so that they are better prepared and can provide a better day for students. SubPlans establishes a standard for what's included in a plan, and streamlines the creation and distribution of plans. Schools that use SubPlans save time, improve coverage, and have more repeat subs.

"I've subbed here a long time, but there was always a level of frustration. SubPlans has lifted that… SubPlans makes me want to sub here more."
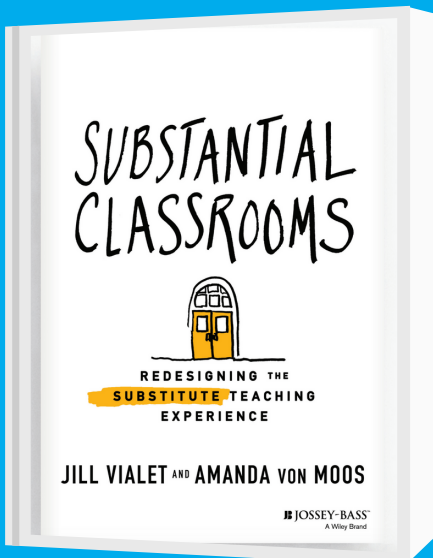- Ann, Substitute Teacher

SubSchool

SubSchool is a new and innovative professional learning community for substitute teachers. In SubSchool, subs build knowledge around the most essential skills for substitute teaching, including classroom management and how to lead instruction. The online platform gives subs the chance to learn from experienced subs and teachers. It includes self-directed coursework and features live, facilitated communities of practice.

"The course material and the support was outstanding. I now have something at my fingertips, I've gotten started. I don't have the same fear or misconceptions of what substitute teaching will be like- that I'll be on my own. Because I'm not. I think this needs to be a mandatory training for all substitute teachers."
-Annette, SubSchool Participant

Book Release!

March 2021

Substantial:
Redesigning the Substitute Teaching Experience

"Substantial is an engaging and inspiring look at an aspect of the educational system - substitute teaching - that has gone unexamined for too long. What if…? How might we…? These simple questions become decisive turning points in a books parked by inspiration, fueled by empathy, and fortified by years of on-the-ground (in-the-schools) research. Amanda [von Moos] and Jill [Vialet] have not only done the work to prove you can jump in and turn small hacks into surprising, systemic change - they'll radically alter how you see substitute teaching."

- Arne Duncan, former U.S. Secretary of Education

AMANDA VON MOOS
CO-FOUNDER

Amanda Co-Founded Substantial with Jill Vialet. She manages Substantial on a day-to-day basis, working with our amazing team and partners to make things that improve the substitute teaching experience. Amanda is passionate about human-centered design, making things that meet real needs and have an elegant simplicity. She brings this passion to make systems work better for schools, rooted in deep appreciation for the work of principals, teachers, and school office staff. For the past 15 years she has worked in various capacities to redesign the systems that support schools. She holds a Master's of Public Policy from UC Berkeley's Goldman School for Public Policy and lives in Berkeley with her family.

JILL VIALET
CO-FOUNDER

Jill has worked for more than 30 years in the nonprofit sector. In addition to Substantial, Jill has also founded and led Playworks and the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA). A frequent public speaker, Jill has given numerous TED talks and keynotes at national conferences. As an author, Jill has contributed to publications such as Huffington Post, Edutopia, and Principal Magazine. In 2013, she published the middle-grade novel Recess Rules and is working on the sequel, No Substitute. Jill is a Eureka, Ashoka and Pahara Fellow, and in 2011 she was named one of the 30 most influential social entrepreneurs by Forbes Magazine. Substantial was developed during Jill's year in residence (2015-2016) at Stanford's Hasso Plattner School of Design (d.school).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITE

www.substantialclssrooms.org/press

We'd love to talk!

Our experts would be excited to speak to you about the following substitute-teaching topics:

- system improvement
- innovation
- tech products
- human-centered design
- professional development/training
- workforce development