

After working for school districts for decades as a substitute teacher, and being active as a PERS employee of those districts, it was more than financially devastating to learn that I would suddenly be working for a company far away who actually would have no daily supervisory position over my work. It was as if the district was demeaning us to the status of some other company's employees ...because you don't "work" for us anymore. Substitute teachers deserve to be treated as teachers. We show respect for the schools where we work, and willingly follow the protocols of every school we are at. It can be a career status for many of us, and not something that should be seen as ...just somebody who is in our building today. We are serious educators, and to support us and encourage others to take the position of filling in for a full-time teacher, should be seen by the state as the job of a serious, and devoted, local employee. I cannot encourage you enough to put us back in the position of actually working for the districts that we work in, and to allow our employment to move us to the financial advantage, and necessity, of having an active roll in the PERS retirement program.