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Review of Inspired Classroom’s Substitute Teacher Training Course

Inspired Classroom along with Kaleva Law Offices offer an online Substitute Teacher Training Course. The course is 11 self paced modules that take about 180 minutes total. The modules can be taken all at once, one right after the other, or as time allows. There is a brief quiz at the end of each module to ensure comprehension and a cumulative quiz at the end of all 11 modules that will result in a certificate of completion.

Inspired Classroom has three strong points for offering this course in our district, the first would be for the protection of our students and district, the second is the fact that creating a culture of continuing education is good practice, and finally better prepared subs create a better learning experience for our students. This course offers our district the opportunity to have actual “trained” substitute teachers and to give substitute teachers who are an integral part of our school district, the opportunity to be professionals. If we administer this course consistently, we will be setting our subs up for success and can create a long term quality working relationship between substitute teachers and our district. As teachers, we need to be able to trust substitute teachers to be professionals and to be the teacher, not a babysitter. With this course, we will have the opportunity at any time of the year a substitute starts to clearly lay out expectations before a substitute teacher even enters the classroom.

The course modules cover everything from expectations and managing student behavior, to physical space and safety, confidentiality, diversity, lists of resources, and many other very important topics. The modules are well thought out and offer comfortable pacing, each running from about 8-20 minutes long. They covered everything from how to teach, such as, offering tips on sequencing, pacing,and timing, to how to handle bullying, sexual harassment, first aid, SPED, and student diversity. The course also stressed the necessity of confidentiality and empowers the substitute to be professional and defines what that must look like.

The administrative side of the course is well laid out in a clear PDF with easy to use instructions for viewing a candidate's progress and certificate upon completion. For the district, it will be easy to add and manage users. The course cost is scaled according to district size. For example with 20-50 users the cost would be $750 yearly and Inspired Classroom is currently offering a 15% discount.

A few things to add about the Missoula, MT company that created the course, Inspired Classroom: the owners are two former principals that created this company “to do all the things they wanted to while in the school but never had time.” This course was originally created to help school districts comply with Montana law for training substitute teachers. They offer several other continuing education courses online and many free virtual platforms for students that our district would be welcome to take part in. They have shown excellent customer service, every email and phone call has been answered promptly.

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