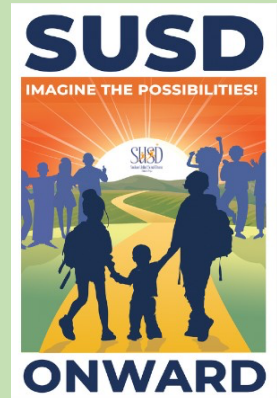




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #17 2024-25 School Year – Week of December 9, 2024

Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. Can substitutes come to the Staff Appreciation Event on Monday?

All SUSD staff, including both permanent and substitute employees, are warmly invited to join us at the 2nd Annual Winter Staff Appreciation Event on Monday, December 16th. You are welcome to stop by anytime between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM here at the District Office. We will have cookies, hot chocolate, hot apple cider and student performances. We look forward to seeing you there!

2. How were the families selected for the Holiday Express Event?

Each school site was given the opportunity to select ten students and their families who they felt would most benefit from this special occasion. The decision-making process was handled at the site level to ensure the selections best reflected the needs of their school community.

3. What will the selected families receive at the Holiday Express Event?

The selected families will receive a \$50 gift card generously provided by the 1852 Foundation, toys from our SUSD PD Toy Drive, candy canes, as well as board and card games and books from our Family Resource Center. We look forward to celebrating this special event with our families and community.

4. Can you give me more information on the Native American Indian Center event?

The Native American Indian Center's Annual Winter Gathering will take place on Wednesday, December 18th from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the Edison High School Cafeteria. This special gathering will feature a host drum performance, a visit from Santa, delicious food and exciting activities. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and connect with the community.

5. When will we have our new Board members and who are they?

The new SUSD Board Members will be officially sworn in at the December 17th Board Meeting. We are excited to welcome:

- Isabel Perez, Area 1 Trustee
- Frank Silva, Area 3 Trustee
- Shauna Priest, Area 4 Trustee

We look forward to their contributions and leadership on the Board.

6. The labor relation page used to be updated weekly and hasn't been updated weekly anymore. Can we go back to updating this weekly please? Thank you!

The Labor Relations page is updated periodically during active contract negotiations, especially when Tentative Agreements (TAs) are reached. Weekly updates are more frequent during intensive negotiation periods to keep stakeholders informed of progress.

Currently, we are not in a peak negotiation period, which is why updates have been less frequent. However, as we approach upcoming CBA negotiations with CSEA 318 and SPPA in January, as well as negotiations with other unions in early spring, you can expect more regular updates on the Labor Relations page.

We value transparency and will continue to ensure timely communication during these negotiations. Stay tuned for more frequent updates as the bargaining process progresses.

7. I know you are using Wonderbox for math support in the after-school program. Is it showing results with our students?

We are thrilled to share some early highlights of the positive impact DreamBox Math has had on our students in SUSD ELOP since its launch in October 2024. As highlighted in the graph below, the lighter line represents the average growth of students actively engaging with the program. These students have demonstrated a growth of 0.1 in DreamBox Math, which equates to approximately two months of academic progress—a promising start for their mathematical development.

Even more exciting is the progress shown by students who complete the recommended five or more lessons each week, represented by the darker line. These dedicated learners have achieved a remarkable 0.7 growth, equivalent to approximately seven months of academic progress in just two months.

This data highlights the potential of DreamBox Math to accelerate learning and support our students' success. We are confident that as participation and engagement continue to grow, even greater achievements will follow.



8. When Stockton Unified School Employees retire, and come back to sub for the district. Why can't they receive the same pay as when they retired?

The pay rates for substitutes are governed by specific agreements and policies:

- **Certificated Substitutes:** Their pay rates are negotiated with the Stockton Teachers Association (STA). Any changes or increases in wages must be collectively bargained with STA as part of the negotiation process.
- **Classified Substitutes:** These substitutes are placed at Step A of the pay scale for the classification they are substituting in.

There are important considerations behind the differences in pay between substitutes and full-time employees. Substitutes generally work fewer hours, have fewer responsibilities, and are available on an as-needed basis, rather than committing to the daily demands and long-term responsibilities of a permanent role.

While we greatly value the contributions of substitutes and appreciate their flexibility and support for our students, these differences in role expectations and commitments are reflected in the compensation structure.

9. Are we going to receive any more tablets? I am a clerical staff at a school site. We can't always stay with the tablet, carry the tablet or constantly pass the tablet to another clerical staff every time we leave our desks. Parents, students, visitors and staff will come in at any given time needing our assistance so trying to also manage this system is not an easy task. We need at least one more tablet to help us work efficiently.

We understand how challenging it can be to manage multiple responsibilities at the front desk while ensuring smooth use of the tablet system.

We will look into the possibility of linking an additional tablet with a stand to support your workflow. For security purposes, the tablet will be secured to the stand to prevent unauthorized access or misuse. This should provide added convenience while maintaining the integrity of the system.

10. I want to know when will school start back I'm trying to get my son in school he about to be five in February 26th when can I sign him up.

SUSD is eager to assist you with enrolling your child. With a 5th birthday in February 2025, your child is eligible for Transitional Kindergarten. Transitional Kindergarten is a full-day program designed to meet your child's academic and developmental needs.

To register for Transitional Kindergarten, visit 1800 S. Sutter St. or begin an online registration by visiting the district [website](#). For information about required documents, please

visit the Transitional Kindergarten informational page
at <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/12044>.

SUSD will be closed for winter break from December 23, 2024-January 3, 2025. Classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2025. It's not too late to begin your registration today! For additional questions please reach out to the Early Childhood Education Department 209-933-7380.