



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #12 2023-24 School Year – Week of November 6, 2023

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

**1. Is the “Radical” movie for staff or students? Do we need permission to go?**

The free movie screening of Radical is intended for any SUSD staff member. The screenings will be held in the evenings and on the weekend of November 17-19, so you do not need permission to go. The 700 available tickets will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. A RSVP link will be sent directly to staff.

**2. You mentioned in your message last week that staff could go for free to the movie, Radical. How much is this costing the District?**

The Latino Film Institute’s Youth Cinema Project is sponsoring these screenings in four communities throughout California. Stockton was one of the selected communities due to our impressive staff and students. There is no cost to the District.

**3. I need to begin work but need to have a safe place for my children to go before 8:30am. Where can I take them?**

Our Expanded Learning Opportunities Program has a before school program at the majority of our K-8 school sites. You can go to the [following link](#) to find out more information. Your children will experience the following benefits of ELOP Before School:

- **Structured Start:** We offer a structured start to the day, helping your child transition smoothly from home to school with activities that promote focus and preparedness.
- **Social Interaction:** Your child will have the opportunity to socialize with their peers, fostering friendships and valuable social skills.
- **Enrichment:** Our program incorporates fun and enriching activities that encourage a love for learning. From arts and crafts to science experiments, your child will have a blast exploring new interests.
- **Homework Support:** Need assistance with homework? Our skilled staff members are here to provide guidance and support, ensuring homework is completed with confidence.
- **Healthy Breakfast:** A nutritious breakfast is provided to kickstart your child's day with the energy they need to excel in their studies.

**4. Why did they install Pads inside the boy’s bathroom? That caused many questions/issues with my students.**

SUSD is following Assembly Bill (AB) 367: The Menstrual Equity for All Act which recognizes the critical need for expanded access to free menstrual products in California

public schools in order to stem the harmful impacts period poverty has on students in the classroom. The Menstrual Equity for All Act has two main requirements for local educational agencies:

- 1) As of the start of the 2022-2023 school year, all public schools, including schools operated by school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, serving any grade 6-12, inclusive, must provide free and accessible menstrual products defined as both pads and tampons—in all women’s restrooms and all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men’s restroom.
- 2) In addition, schools are required to post clear and visible notices letting students know about their right to access free menstrual products. The notice must be posted in all applicable restrooms and include the text of Education Code § 35292.6 as well as contact information, including both a telephone number and email address, for the school personnel responsible for ensuring menstrual products are stocked.

**5. Would it be possible to have contracts with local farmers and ranchers to have better quality of food and to support the locals?**

Many of our current vendors/distributors do contract with local farms and/or companies in the Central Valley and many times a final processed product will have ingredients that are local. We do keep in mind “The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008” which defines locally grown as “being transported less than 400 miles, or from within the state in which it is produced”.

The Child Nutrition Department has discussed the ability to utilize local products even closer to or within Stockton to utilize whole ingredients and minimally processed forms. We are working in conjunction with the Warehouse and Maintenance and Operations to get the refrigerator and freezer at the Central Warehouse up and running. This will help with a central drop off location for many of our local vendors as many times, they may not have the capacity to transport large amounts of product directly to our sites.

**6. In all classified interviews, a CSEA union representative was present. According to my understanding, union representatives are no longer copied when HR schedules interviews. As a CSEA member, I feel more at ease during interviews when a union representative is there. May I inquire as to why this practice was discontinued?**

Generally, the hiring manager determines who will be interviewed and who will be on the panel. It is highly recommended to have a diverse panel and include union representatives who have direct knowledge of the job they are interviewing for to be invited. Therefore, when the specific union has direct impact from the hire, they are invited to participate. As SUSD has nine unions, to be operationally sound, we are not automatically inviting all nine representatives, plus any other panel members the hiring manager chooses. This takes away from the services these employees provide to the students of SUSD given the number of interviews the district conducts on a weekly basis.

**7. Where can I find the Student Handbook?**

You can find the Student Handbook on our District website under Student Resources and at the [following link](#).

**8. When is open enrollment for medical benefits going to end?**

Open Enrollment was the first two weeks in October and the last day to enroll or make changes to your current plan was October 13, 2023 for new year. Information regarding

Open Enrollment was mailed to employees in August and is also available on the Stockton Unified School District website under the Benefit page: [Benefits / 2024 Health Plans & Rates \(stocktonusd.net\)](#). If changes to your coverage are due to a life-changing event, please contact the Benefit Department at [Benefits@stocktonusd.net](mailto:Benefits@stocktonusd.net) and they will be able to assist.

**9. I want to go to the next EL Subcommittee Meeting. Where can I see the agenda for that meeting?**

The EL Subcommittee Meeting just occurred on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. All of the subcommittee meetings' agendas are published on Board Docs three days in advance. You can find them at the [following link](#).

**10. Is there a future date for the completion of the Arthur Coleman Jr. Parking Lot Expansion Project? There was a training at the District Office today and it was apparent that the additional parking spaces would have been useful.**

The project is scheduled to remobilize starting on November 16, 2023 and work should commence on November 21, 2023. Completion is scheduled for March 28, 2024. As the parking lot is paved with asphalt, there may be some details due to weather. Asphalt must be applied within a certain temperature range. Asphalt cannot be applied when the temperature drops below 50 degrees or if conditions are wet. Being that we are doing this project in the winter we may encounter some delay days due to these conditions. Our agreements do allow for a number of delay days due to weather. However every attempt will be made to hold the current completion date.