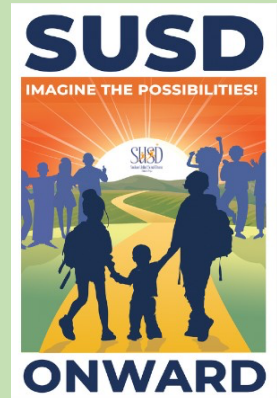




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #18 2024-25 School Year – Week of December 16, 2024

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

- 1. One of my students was selected for the golden ticket winner for the Holiday Express event but they did not go. Can he still receive his gift? It would make him really happy.**

The staff at the Family Resource Center has gone above and beyond to make sure every child receives their gift, even if they were unable to attend the event. All remaining gifts and gift cards have been personally delivered to the respective school sites over the last several days. This ensures that every child, including your student, can still enjoy their well-deserved gift. I greatly appreciate the hard work and commitment of the FRC staff in making this possible.

- 2. Can my daughter take her Chromebook to Mexico with her during the holidays? Will it work there?**

Your child may take the District-issued Chromebook to Mexico. We encourage ongoing learning, also known as 24/7 learning, and are pleased to support her education while traveling. Please note that while the District Chromebook will work with available Wi-Fi networks in Mexico, the District-provided hotspots are not functional outside of our service area. We recommend identifying reliable Wi-Fi access during your trip to ensure uninterrupted use of the device. We ask that the Chromebook be returned upon your daughter's return to continue supporting her learning at school.

- 3. We take surveys all the time, but I do not always hear about the results. What were the results of the Technology Survey we just took?**

Technology plays a critical role in enhancing teaching and learning across our schools. These survey results underscore its impact. Thank you to everyone who participated and for your ongoing efforts to integrate technology in ways that support student success.

Below are some highlights from the survey:

Survey Participants

11,755 Students

402 Classified Staff

289 Parents

217 Admin/Credentialed Support Staff

Cyber Safety

- 82% of students recognize the importance of keeping their usernames and passwords private.
- 82% of parents believe their child feels safe participating in online educational activities.

Classroom Integration

- 75% of teachers report daily Chromebook use in their classrooms, with nearly 20% using them weekly.
- This aligns with student feedback, where 77% report daily use and 16% report weekly use.

Home Use

- Students overwhelmingly value having Chromebooks at home to support their schoolwork and homework.
- i-Ready and ParentVue/StudentVue are the top two apps parents are most familiar with.

4. Can you confirm when students will return back to school after the break?

We will welcome our students when they return back to school on Monday, January 6, 2025. We look forward to seeing all of our students on that day as school attendance is very important. Here are some facts to consider:

How Does Chronic Absenteeism Impact Students?



83% of students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade cannot read at grade level by third grade



Students not reading at grade level by third grade are 4X more likely to drop out of school



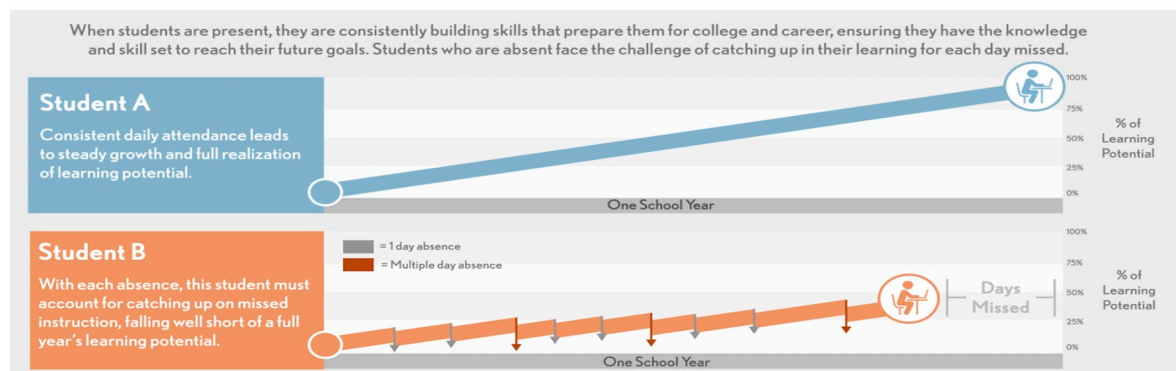
By sixth grade chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school



Students who feel that they belong are more likely to show up to school regularly and engage academically



Improved attendance provides access to caring support that buffers the effects of adversity and stress



5. Will our Police Department be working over the winter break to protect our schools?

Our SUSD Police Department is a police agency that operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The Department is open 365 days a year and is not closed for holidays. The Department is allotted 35 positions for sworn staff however they currently have 25 sworn positions filled and two additional trainee positions in the Academy. This includes their management positions which include the Chief, a Lieutenant, and six sergeants. Their active patrol staff consists of 17 sworn officer/corporals who cover the various shifts which include dayshift, swing shift and graveyard shift to ensure 24/7 coverage.

6. You are not going to have any programs during winter break. That is hard on my family since I work. I need to prepare if you will not be having any programs for spring break. Will there be anything?

The ELOP department will have their Spring Break Day Camp from March 17th–March 20th. This exciting program will offer safe, engaging, and fun learning opportunities for students during Spring Break. Here are a few key details:

Registration opens: January 6th

Registration closes: February 21st

Need transportation? Families must register by February 7th to secure this service.

7. How do I receive access to the \$500 of supplies for each teacher?

SUSD recognizes the importance of providing adequate classroom materials and resources to support effective teaching and learning. Outlined below is the process to spend the \$500 per classroom teacher for educational materials directly related to classroom education. The only allowable vendor is Southwest School and Office Supply. Orders should be submitted using the Escape Online Shopping process, as normal. Each teacher should stop shopping at \$460 because the total allocated includes tax. Teachers can browse the Southwest website, build lists, and create PDFs to help the Requisitioner place their orders by using the **browse-only** login through the following website: Visit

<https://www.southwestordering.com/idm/tpsLogin?routeType=sba&tpsCode=SWS>. User ID, Account Number and Password can be acquired from site office staff as it cannot be publicly displayed on these FAQs.

8. I received notice to pre-register for high school during 8th grade parent night. Do I have to pre-register my child so early?

We encourage all 8th grade parents to attend. Pre-Registration Night provides students and their families with essential information about the high school experience. It addresses critical areas such as course selection, graduation requirements, and

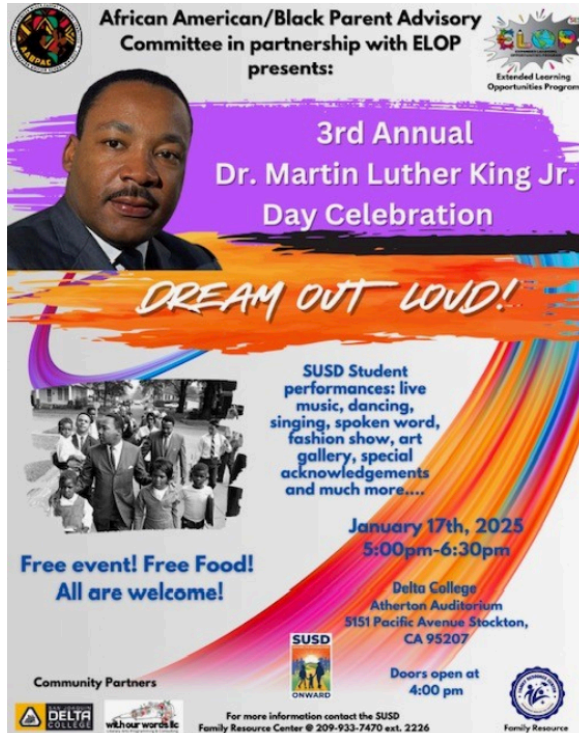
extracurricular opportunities. This proactive approach reduces anxiety and promotes a sense of preparedness.

Parents and students are introduced to academic pathways, advanced placement (AP) options, career technical education (CTE) programs, and specialized pathways available at their respective high schools. Early exposure to these opportunities helps students make informed choices about their academic and career trajectories.

In addition, the Pre-Registration Night ensures that all families, regardless of background, have access to critical information about high school programming. This inclusivity supports equity in education and ensures that no student is left behind in understanding their educational options.

9. Are you doing any events for MLK Day?

Throughout the month of January, we will have various activities occurring at both the site and District level. We will have our 3rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration which is a collaboration between our African American/Black Parent Advisory (AABPAC) and our Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) which will occur on January 17, 2025 from 5:00-6:30pm at Delta College.



10. I hear that there are parent trainings for special education but I never see them posted. I follow the districts Facebook and Instagram accounts and I check on the website. Where are these meetings being advertised and where are the flyers?

We will ensure that future special education events and trainings are posted on the District's Facebook and Instagram accounts. You will see that the Special Ed Department posts events, trainings and resources on our district website. Once you are on the website you will notice some tabs at the top.

1. Click on "Departments & Programs"

About Us Board of Education Operations Academics College & Career **Departments & Programs**

2. Then Click on Special Education Department

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- School Counseling Department
- Science, Technology, Engineering and
- Special Education Department

3. Click on Parent Supports & Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Tabs



You will find a variety of information around upcoming meetings including CAC and PEP. There are multiple resources that include Online Learning, Supporting Parents with Behaviors, A Parent Handbook for Autism, Strategies for Universal Design for Learning, Social Stories, and many more.

Additionally, we send out flyers and text messages to our community. If you would like to have your personal email registered to receive updated information, please contact Mary Perez, Executive Assistant for Special Education at the following number: 209-933-7120x 2522.