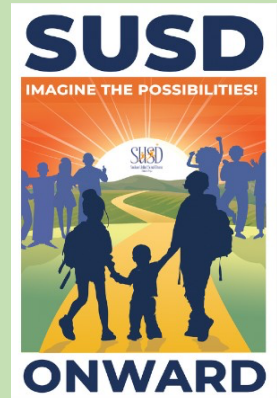




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #25 2024-25 School Year – Week of February 17, 2025

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

- 1. When is the district implementing a policy of no cell phone use in the classroom for students? Other districts in our area have policies already in place. Cell phones are a huge distraction for students in the classroom.**

We recognize that cell phones can be a significant distraction to student learning, and we are actively evaluating the best approach for implementing a policy within our district.

At the end of this week, we sent a survey to all SUSD staff to gather their input. In the following weeks, we will survey our secondary students and parents. The feedback from these key stakeholders will help guide our decision-making process. Depending on the level of consensus, we plan to implement the policy either at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year or the 2026-2027 school year, as required by law.

- 2. With the implementation of the ten minute "Recess", what are the direct guidelines to how the ten minute break is supposed to work and be setup? Does liaison set up a schedule for teachers? I have spoken to many sites and it seems that every site does it differently. Also, are teachers supposed to be supervising at this time since it is considered uninstructional time? How do teachers who have supervision at this time use the restroom? What happens if a fight breaks out and one teacher is absent? Are subs supposed to be supervising?**

Student supervision is limited to a scheduled recess and after school rotation, unless the minutes are included as instructional time (TK/Kinder only). Supervision cannot be assigned before school or during a teacher's duty-free lunch.

Recess duty schedules are typically developed prior to the start of the school year and reviewed by leadership and liaison teams to ensure appropriate coverage and equitable distribution. Teachers assigned to recess duty coordinate with one another to ensure that only one teacher is away at a time for restroom use. Additionally, administration and security staff are typically present during these times.

Certificated Substitute Teachers must perform recess or afterschool supervision if they are covering for a teacher assigned to that duty. For further details, STA Article 6,

Section 14 outlines Non-Teaching Duties Within the Teacher's Workday for grades TK-8.

3. Can a school order their own immigration red cards for their students and families? We need a lot more than the limited amount we are receiving from the District.

To address your need for additional cards beyond the district's allocation, you can place an order directly through our SUSD Reprographics Department via your site administration. They have been instrumental in creating and distributing the red cards over the past few weeks and will be able to assist you promptly. Please coordinate with your site administration to place the order through Reprographics.

4. How would someone find a person who has been detained by ICE?

You can use ICE's online detainee locator to find an adult who is in immigration custody. You can search by using the person's Alien Registration Number and country of origin or biographical information at <https://www.ice.gov/contact/ero>. If you do not have that information, you can call the Executive Office for Immigration Review's hotline at 240-314-1500 or 800-898-7180.

5. What can parents do to prepare for a possible deportation to ensure their child's safety?

Parents concerned about ensuring their child's safety in the event of a possible deportation can take several proactive steps. One key measure is establishing a power of attorney to designate a trusted caregiver for children under 18. To navigate this process, parents are encouraged to seek guidance from local family law services and legal aid organizations.

For direct support, families can connect with resources at the SUSD Health and Wellness Resource Fair on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at the School for Adults from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Legal professionals and community organizations will be available to provide information and assistance.

In the meantime, parents should update their child's emergency contact card at school, ensuring that additional trusted individuals are listed as authorized to pick up their child in case of an emergency. Taking these steps can help provide peace of mind and security for both parents and children.

6. My principal mentioned that we were doing the Panorama Survey again this year. Who will take it and when?

All four surveys will be open from February 24, 2025 to March 7, 2025. The surveys include a student survey for grades 3 through 5 and 6 through 12, a family survey, a teacher survey and a staff survey. All surveys are available online in our major languages.

The choice to switch to a respondent's desired language is inside of the survey. The student survey consists of two short surveys that are available through the Panorama Tile on Class Link. To make administration of the survey easier we are asking that schools serving grades 6th through 12th all administer their student surveys during their 2nd period. The teacher and staff survey will be available on the district website as well as through a flyer sent via a text message notification.

7. When are you going to start recruiting for staff for next year?

At SUSD, we have already kicked off our recruiting efforts for the upcoming year. We have begun our season by actively engaging in local events and have even started welcoming new international hires. Looking ahead, we have several key events lined up: on February 28, 2025, we are hosting a VIP teacher recruiting event to prioritize our current substitutes, student teachers, and residents who have shown dedication to our district. Following this, we have a major teacher recruiting event scheduled for March 15, 2025, at TCSJ, and an all-District career event on March 29, 2025, at Franklin. To amplify our outreach, we will be launching banners, billboard advertisements, and announcements starting March 1, 2025. Our goal is to ensure we attract and retain talented educators who align with our district's vision and values.

8. I really appreciated the substitute teacher multi-day training last year. Will you be doing it again this year? How will we be informed of it?

We are pleased to hear that it was helpful. Last year, approximately 400 substitutes attended each day. While we have not yet finalized the details for this upcoming year, if we are able to offer the training again, we plan to hold the sessions on Day 2 and Day 3 of the regular teacher return week in August. Once plans are confirmed, we will provide more information and ensure that all details are communicated accordingly.

9. Will you be offering TK at additional sites this next school year? Will they be full day or half day?

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is for children turning 4 by September 1, 2025, with a six-hour class schedule. An additional three hours of care are available at no cost through the ELOP program. Currently, SUSD offers TK at 26 sites. Next year, we are pleased to be expanding TK programs to three additional sites, Hazelton, Henry, and Victory. Below is a list of all of the school sites that will be offering TK programs next year.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) will be offered at Adams, August, Bush, Cleveland, Commodore, El Dorado, Elmwood, Fremont, Grunsky, Hamilton, Harrison, Hazelton, Henry, Hong Kingston, Hoover, Kennedy, King, Madison, Marshall, McKinley, Montezuma, Peyton, Pulliam, Rio Calaveras, Roosevelt, Taft, Taylor, Van Buren, and Victory.

Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, the adult-to-student ratio in TK will be 1 adult to 10 students. TK classes will be staffed based upon one of two staffing models:

- Traditional TK: one credentialled TK teacher and two TK paraprofessionals
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK): one credentialed TK teacher, one early childhood permitted teacher, and one TK paraprofessional

10. What Early Childhood Education Programs are offered in SUSD?

In the 2025-26 school year, Stockton Unified will offer a variety of early education programs for children ages 3-5 to address different needs, including:

California State Preschool Program (CSPP) is a part-day, three-hour program for children ages 3-5 which is offered at Adams, August, Bush, El Dorado, Fillmore, Grunsky, Henry, Hoover, Kennedy, Madison, McKinley, Merlo, Montezuma, Nightingale, PAAC, Peyton, Pittman, Taylor, Victory, Washington, and Wilson.

Head Start is a six-hour program for children ages 3-5 offered at Adams, Chavez, Edison, El Dorado, Elmwood, Franklin, Fremont, Grunsky, Harrison, Hazelton, Hong Kingston, Kennedy, King, Monroe, Montezuma, Nightingale, Pulliam, Roosevelt, Taft, Taylor, Van Buren, Victory, Weber.

Off-site Locations include Community of All Nations, Diamond Cove, Gleason Park, Grant Village, Santa Fe Townhomes, Villa Montecito, Westgate Townhomes, and Wysteria.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is for children turning 4 by September 1, 2025, with a six-hour class schedule. An additional three hours of care are available at no cost through the ELOP program which is offered at Adams, August, Bush, Cleveland, Commodore, El Dorado, Elmwood, Fremont, Grunsky, Hamilton, Harrison, Hazelton, Henry, Hong Kingston, Hoover, Kennedy, King, Madison, Marshall, McKinley, Montezuma, Peyton, Pulliam, Rio Calaveras, Roosevelt, Taft, Taylor, Van Buren, and Victory.