



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #32 2023-24 School Year – Week of April 22, 2024

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

- 1. Where can the form to request the \$5,000 tuition reimbursement be found? It does not seem to be anywhere on the district website. Can this form be added to the site with detailed instruction on who qualifies for this reimbursement. Thank you!**

This form can be requested from the Certificated Personnel Analysts listed below, as they need to verify eligibility. Only teachers hired in the 22-23 School Year who complete their credential program after they were hired are eligible for the tuition reimbursement.

Rita Bogarin rbogarin@stocktonusd.net – August, El Dorado, Grunsky, Harrison, Hazelton, Hoover, Huerta, Madison, Mata, McKinley, Spanos, Taft, Victory (site based preschool/USA/K-8 PE; all other preschool incl High School)

Kristina Bragonje klbragonje@stocktonusd.net – Adams, Bush, Cleveland, Hong Kingston, Kennedy, Kohl, Nightingale, Peyton, Pittman, Pulliam, PYA, Rio Calaveras, Skills, Wilson (site based preschool/USA/K-8 PE; Instructional Coaches, Curriculum, Lang Dev)

Marcela Lane mlane@stocktonusd.net – All Special Ed Teachers, SPPA, CWA

Taina Butler tbutler@stocktonusd.net – Elmwood, Fillmore, Fremont, Hamilton, Henry, King, Marshall, Monroe, Montezuma, Roosevelt, San Joaquin, Taylor, Van Buren, Washington (site based preschool/USA/K-8 PE; Elem Music, Elem Arts)

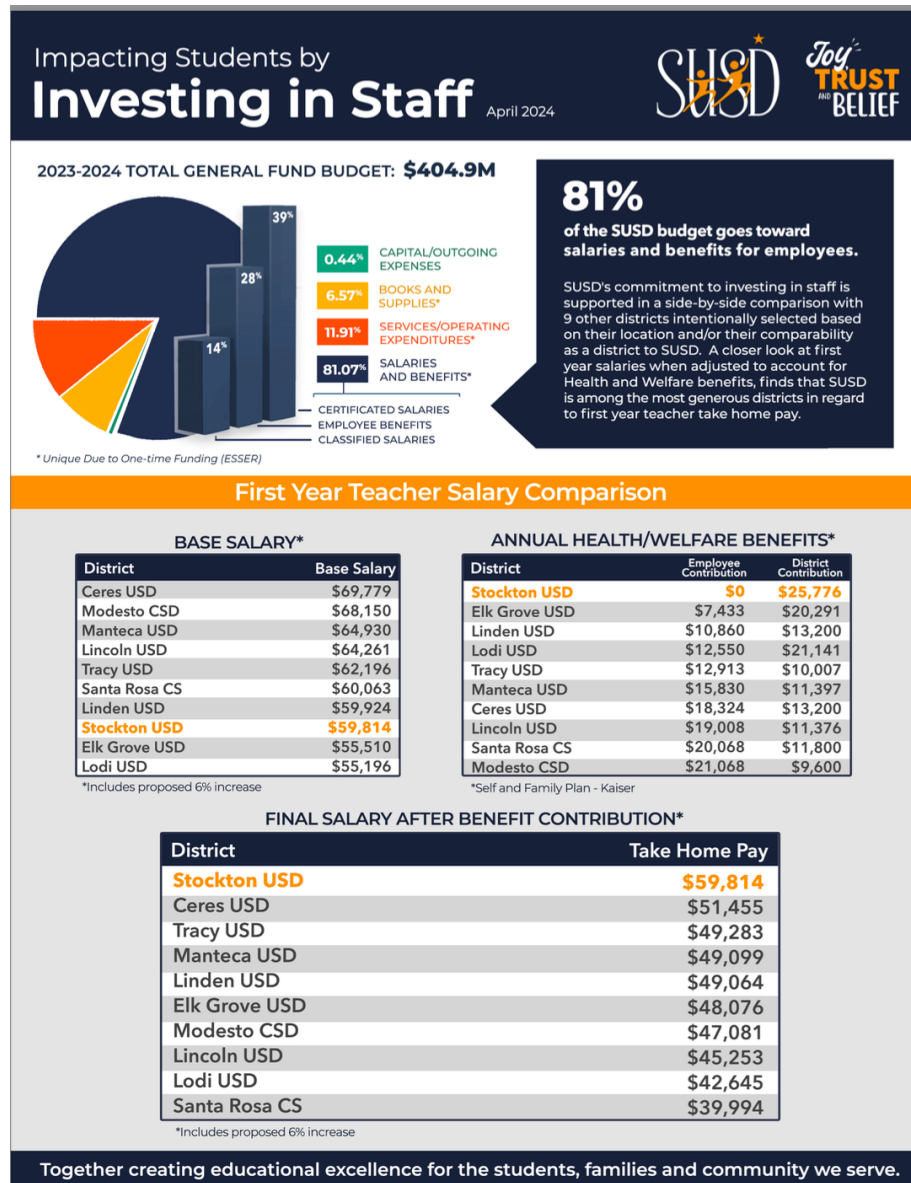
May Vang mvang@stocktonusd.net – All High School, Adult Ed, Administrators

- 2. Why is CalSTRs being taken out of the bonus pay checks? It is my understanding that bonus pay or one-time salary payments are not subject to CalSTRs withholding, however, I have had it deducted in both checks.**

All classic STRS members are required to pay retirement on both the retention and the off-salary schedule payments. If they are a PEPRa STRS member (became a member after 1/2013) they are not required to pay retirement on either one of these items. This is a STRS requirement that the District has to abide by.

3. I saw the recruitment flyer that you put out. How did you come up with those districts?

We created the recruitment flyer for our next recruitment fair happening on Saturday, May 4, 2024. We included both surrounding districts and districts with similar demographics. The infographic highlights the importance that SUSD places in providing their employees with a strong health and welfare package making SUSD the highest paying District in terms of total compensation for first year teachers.



4. I went to Save Mart and had issues with using the purchase order there. What is the issue?

After we received the concern, we confirmed with Save Mart that all our accounts are up-to-date. It is possible that the school sites' PO amount of \$500.00 has already been used. If the site reaches the \$500 spending threshold, the purchase order is no longer valid and the site will need to request a PO revision to increase the amount.

- 5. Can the i-Ready Math worksheets for the primary grades be cut and sorted by the same pages instead of giving the students the large workbook? I teach Kindergarten and it takes me months to just rip out the pages from the i-Ready workbook and sort them by the same pages by hand. I have tried letting the Kindergarteners use the workbook without tearing out the pages, but it is just not age appropriate. They get confused and it takes more out of the class time to make sure everyone is on the correct page (it is a large workbook). There are also pages that are "family letters" which are meant to be sent home, which we also need to tear out of the workbook. Many of our colleagues in the primary grades feel the same way about this and so we have been ripping out ALL the pages and sorting it. However, this takes WAY too much time. I spent months just ripping out pages from the workbook and sorting it one at a time in my classroom, filling the whole carpet every time. This is valuable time that should be used for lesson planning and creating engaging activities for the students. So please is there any way that we can receive the i-Ready worksheets by the sorted pages instead of the workbook? Thank you!**

We appreciate your initiative in finding solutions that can save a teacher's valuable time. Our Reprographics Department is fully equipped to implement the modification as per your request. However, to proceed, we had to ask iReady to provide us with the necessary copyright authorization. This authorization ensures that we are in compliance with all legal requirements and can proceed with the modification without any issues. As a part of our paid license with Curriculum Associates, our i-Ready Classroom Mathematics publisher, we receive student consumable workbooks for grades K-8 each year. They would not provide us copyrights to duplicate student workbooks for our teachers. However, based on teacher input and feedback, the publisher has updated the student workbooks to address your concern. This year, we will be receiving the updated 2024 version of the curriculum. In Kindergarten and First Grade all student workbook pages now have colored shapes/symbols as well as images of i-Ready characters that will help students navigate the pages easier. You can see additional enhancements in the 2024 version of the curriculum [here](#).

- 6. Hello Dr. Rodriguez, The past few years Middle School enrollment in Summer School has been very low. I have discussed this concern with a number of teachers. One solution was to offer a module schedule where our Middle School Students (6-8) could attend on 2 hour blocks instead of the proposed 4 hour day (SLA). An example of a data driven block is one focusing on Unit Rates or Proportional Reasonings, or geometry. All areas that are students struggle in. An additional example could be a writing focus, where students are informed of different genres of writing and associated academic vocabulary. We keep saying we will take new and innovative approaches to address our district issues. Starting with this Summer School Option is a suggested place to start. Please verify my concern by looking at the number of Middle School Students enrolling in Summer School.**

The ELOP department appreciates the innovative approach to increasing student attendance, in particular with our middle school students, offering a 2-hour module schedule to include academic intervention, and enrichment learning activities that will help close the academic achievement gap and better prepare our students for high school. This idea aligns with our goals of providing targeted academic support while engaging students with relevant and practical skills.

The ELOP department will provide school sites with a suggested 2-hour block Summer School schedule that will offer or suggest multiple activities and programs for students to partake in throughout the day. We encourage our school sites and teachers to begin recruiting their middle school students as registration closes on May 16, 2024. If transportation is needed, families should indicate this during registration by April 30, 2024.

7. What are the guidelines that teachers must follow when using social media to record students in their classrooms? Are teachers allowed to use their own personal tik toks or Instagram and video students in the classroom without posting something regarding SUSD or informing parents?

Parents need to give permission for students to be filmed, especially if it will be posted. Within SUSD's Annual Notification Handbook, parents have the ability to opt out of having their child included in any photographs or videos as noted below:

ANNUAL PERMIT FOR STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHIC AND VIDEOTAPE REPRODUCTION

Your child may be photographed, filmed or videotaped during the course of the school year while participating in a school district sponsored activity. These photographs or electronic reproductions may/will be used for educational or public information purposes to explain our school programs and activities to the public. Such photographs and electronic reproductions may be used, revised or reproduced for distribution to other educational institutions, governmental institutions or the news media for noncommercial educational or informational use. If you do not wish your child to be photographed, filmed or videotaped, please indicate your instructions in the Mandatory Signature Sheet enclosed in this packet.

Even with this approval, staff should not take pictures or videos of students and upload them to their personal social media accounts. If there is no exemption form, the pictures or videos may be uploaded to an official school site or district social media account. It must be an official SUSD social media site as we need to be able to reference the data, whether it be audio, text, or video, if ever needed. If it is a district sponsored/approved social media account, then there is board policy [BP1114](#), [AR1114](#) which guides policies and procedures. If there is a continued concern, please reach out to the site administrator so they can follow up on any issues.

8. For the accountant program for adults, what is the schedule?

The accounting program at Stockton School for Adults consists of two classes: "College Accounting" (15 weeks), and "Integrated Accounting" (10 weeks). To give students enough time to complete the "College Accounting" course within the school year, they should start the course by the early part of February. Both classes are open enrollment, so students can register for classes any time prior to the registration deadline, which has already passed for the 23-24 regular school year. Summer session registration opens May 1st, but our summer session is only 1 month, and that wouldn't be enough time for students to complete "College Accounting", which is the first class of the two. If we have student interest, we will offer "Integrated Accounting" during the summer, but this is for students who have already completed the first course. We recommend students join

a cohort at the beginning of the Fall and Spring sessions. Registration for the 24-25 school year will begin on June 28, 2024.

9. Hello, I am a special education teacher at Marshall Elementary. I have had a few parents request a Chromebook to take home to work on some of the software I used in my classroom such as IReady and Lexiacore5. Some of those parents also request a hotspot for their computers. Do you know if there are any available and where parents can pick them up? or is there a way to help parents with accessible Internet at home?

We have both Chromebooks and hotspots available at our school libraries. The library media staff can check out the Chromebook to the student with a note stating “for parent use” in our Destiny asset management program. If the sites need additional Chromebooks or hotspots, they should reach out to our IT Department.

10. What is the calendar for the next school year?

You can find the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year at the following [link](#) as well as below.

