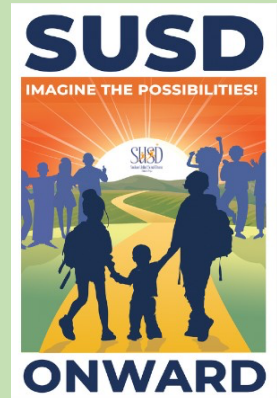




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #5 2024-25 School Year – Week of September 2, 2024

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

1. I am an employee. Do I have to go through the volunteer process?

All current SUSD employees are not required to fingerprint as a volunteer or have a separate badge to volunteer at a school site or field trip. However, site admin does need to confirm if the employee is approved to volunteer for insurance purposes. If an administrator needs to confirm current employee status, they can search for the employee's name in the SUSD email system or contact HR. All employee volunteers are expected to sign in/out and have their SUSD badge with them.

2. When will the second installment (\$2,500) of the \$5,000 retention bonus be paid out to STA? Also, when will the \$1,000 ESY/SLA Bonus be paid out as well, many teachers who worked summer have not received this yet?

As promised in the agreement, the second half of the retention bonus will be paid no later than September 30, 2024. Most employees who worked one of the two summer programs received their ESY or SLA bonus on August 23, 2024. The final set of employees who worked ESY or SLA will be paid the bonus no later than September 23, 2024.

3. When can I change my benefits for the year through Open Enrollment?

We encourage employees to attend the Employee Benefits Fair taking place next Monday, September 9th at the District Office Boardroom from 3:00-5:00pm. This 2nd year annual event is the only opportunity for District employees to come speak with our participating benefit providers, obtain benefit plan information and ask questions in preparation for the 2025 benefits open enrollment that will be held later in the month. Employees are welcome to attend any time during the 2-hour event window of 3:00pm – 5:00pm next Monday, September 9th.

4. Will you be providing translation services for the townhall on African American/Black Student Achievement?

We provide translation services for our parents for all townhalls regardless of their topic. We encourage students, staff, families and community to attend the first townhall of the year on Monday, September 9, 2024 from 5:15-7:00pm at Primary Years Academy to discuss African American/Black student achievement.

5. Why aren't you holding the townhalls at the District Office instead of school sites?

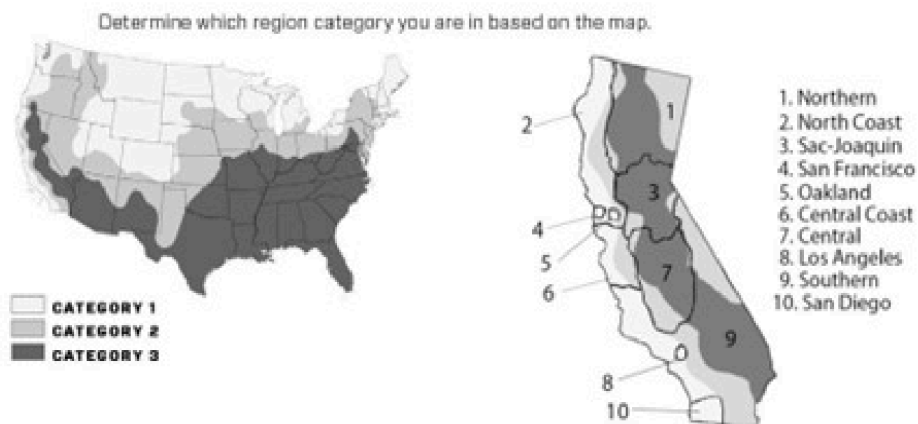
We selected school sites throughout the District to ensure convenient access for parents from all neighborhoods. This approach allows us to engage with a diverse range of families and gather input that reflects the community as a whole.

6. With it being so hot, are football games and practices being cancelled?

SUSD follows the guidelines from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Our schools follow the new CIF rules use the WetBulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) which is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight, which takes into account: temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle, and cloud cover (solar radiation). This differs from the Heat Index, which takes into consideration temperature and humidity and is calculated for shady areas. The WBGT is especially valuable in environments where people are physically active, such as sports, as it provides a better assessment of the risk of heat-related conditions during physical exertion. The CIF requires that schools use the WBGT for the most accurate measurement. Depending on the Category Region (see map below), it is mandated for the benefit of the health and safety of our student-athletes that practice/games be canceled, or delayed until cooler when WBGT exceeds these levels:

- Region Category 1 >86.2°F
- Region Category 2 >89.9°F
- Region Category 3 >92.0°F

As noted below, SUSD falls in Region Category 3.



7. You were in my CTE class today and mentioned the Superintendent's Student Advisory. What is the deadline? Where do I apply?

High school students should apply by Friday, September 13, 2024 at the following [link](#). Selected students will be notified by Friday, September 20 by SUSD student email.

8. I was part of Superintendent's Student Advisory last year. Do I need to apply?

You will still need to apply by the Friday, September 13, 2024 deadline at the following [link](#). I look forward to having some returning Superintendent Student Advisory members to this year's group.

9. I hear there is a movie night and fireworks for SUSD at the Port's Ballpark. How much will it cost me to take my family of 3?

This event is free for SUSD Families. There will be a movie, fireworks and free popcorn. The concession stands will be open to purchase food. The event takes place at Banner Island Ball Park on September 28 at 6:30-9:00pm.



10. Google permission slips are required for our students to access their curriculum and resources on their Chromebook. This is especially important in the intermediate/middle school/high school grades because so much is done on the computer. Yet every year, there are students that don't have it completed. I notice that it is generally students who are new to the district, or coming mid year. It is a struggle to try to connect with parents to get it done.

I would like to suggest that when students are enrolled at Centralized Enrollment, that the staff there assist the parents in completing the permission slip. This way, there is no delay in getting our new students up and running once they come to our classes. We will be able to get them on their iReady right away to complete their

diagnostic and see where they are academically. They will be able to participate in what the class is doing right away, instead of sitting for a couple days while waiting for everything to catch up. Thank you for your time.

Students are not blocked from district-adopted curriculum due to a missing or incomplete Google permission slip. This includes access to essential tools like i-Ready for diagnostic assessments, which begins within 24 hours of being rostered in Synergy, our district's Student Information System (SIS). However, students without a completed Google permission slip or those whose parents or guardians have responded with "no" are restricted from internet searches and third-party apps to comply with regulations such as COPPA and the California Consumer Privacy Act. As of October 2023, Google also restricts users under 18 from accessing third-party apps without parental consent where required by law.

At the start of the school year, a 3-4 week grace period is provided to allow parents time to complete the permission slip, with multiple reminders sent to educators, administrators, and support staff. After this period, students without a completed slip will be blocked from internet searches and third-party apps. If a parent or guardian selects "no," the restriction remains in place unless a new permission slip with a "yes" is submitted.

We appreciate the suggestion to assist parents with the permission slip during the Centralized Enrollment process. The Technology and Innovation Department will consider its feasibility by specifically looking to integrate it into our new digital Annual Parent Handbook. Thank you for your commitment to our students' education and for providing constructive feedback as we continue to enhance their learning experiences.