



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



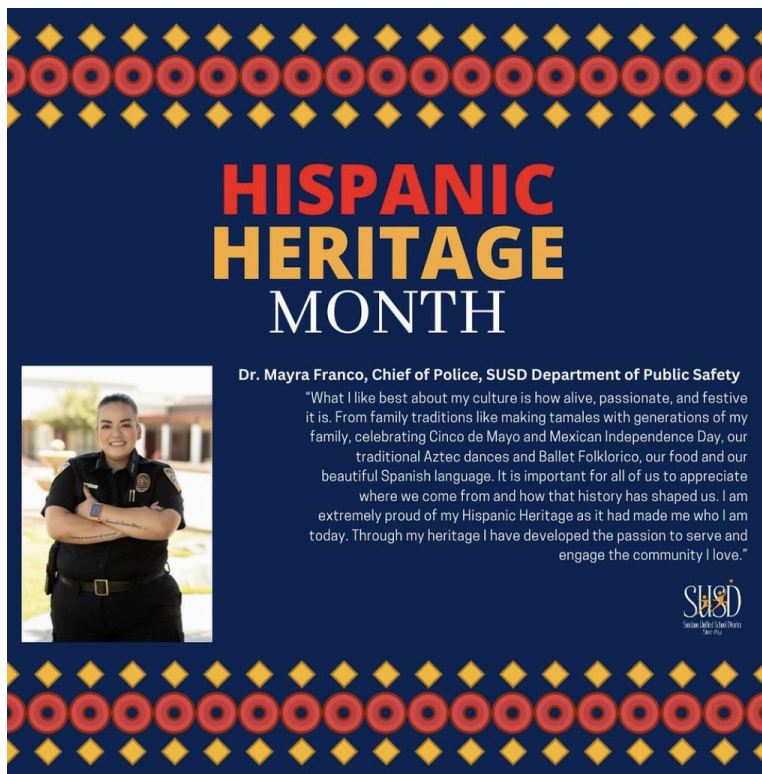
Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #7 2023-24 School Year – Week of September 25, 2023

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

1. What is the District doing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month?

SUSD celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month every year as a time to pay tribute, recognize and honor our Latino community and leaders. Each school site and department has the opportunity to send in a photo and quote to share on social media such as the sample below.



Many school sites also celebrate with dance, music and festivals such as Madison Elementary with their AVID Hispanic/Latinx College and Career Speakers, Hoover Elementary with their Schoolwide Hispanic/Latinx Cookbook, Monroe Elementary with their Hispanic/Latinx Trailblazers and Courageous Contributors and Innovators Research and Writing Projects and Hong Kingston Elementary with their Hispanic/Latinx Spirit Week.

Also, we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with the screening of A Million Miles Away, a story about local astronaut and SUSD Alum Jose Hernandez. The event will take place Oct. 19 at Franklin High School beginning at 6pm.

2. How do I get ahold of the new Director of Constituent Services?

Constituent Services seeks to ensure fairness and promote respect for all SUSD constituents. Our goal is to provide support by offering a place to be heard, to express concerns, to resolve disputes, to manage conflicts and to learn more productive ways of communicating. If you cannot resolve your issue at the site or department level, you can contact our Director of Constituent Services, Joanne Castillo, at 209-933-7037 Ext. 2195 or email her at JMCastillo@stocktonusd.net.

3. My site is going to implement the Hall Pass system that you are implementing. What does it actually check for? Are you doing it at all sites?

When visiting one of the district's schools, all visitors must provide one of the following:

- A valid state ID.
- Driver's license.
- Green card.

This ID will be quickly scanned and verified against the national sex offender database (which is more extensive than our previous system). Once the screening is complete and the visitor is cleared, a visitor's badge, complete with their name and picture, will be printed. This visitor's badge must be worn at all times while on campus and upon leaving, returned to the front office.

Implementing the Hall Pass system helps provide students and staff with a safer, more monitored environment.

4. My daughter wants to be part of the PLUS program. How can she be part of it?

SUSD's Student Voice program, Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS), is an evidence-based Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) program where students utilize data-driven & restorative practices to address school climate issues affecting their peers. It is a peer resource and trauma-informed program that trains students to be restorative advocates in preventing and reducing school violence by promoting opportunities for prosocial bonding, building a strong sense of belonging, prevention activities that promote school safety, and through the use of student survey data as a monitoring and assessment tool for action. Stockton Unified has 1300+ PLUS student leaders in 6th-12th grades at 49 school sites. Each school site has PLUS advisor(s) to support the student leaders and help plan student activities. Our K-8 schools implement PLUS either as a class or a club, whereas our high schools implement it as a class. Students who are interested in joining the PLUS program should contact their school's PLUS advisor, counselor, administrator, and/or a student PLUS Leader. In addition, parents/guardians are welcome to reach out to the school counselor and inquire about the program as well.

5. When will sites receive their calming centers?

A Calming Center is a designated area where students can calm themselves and practice coping skills so they can reset and return to class more regulated and ready to learn. Calming Centers include elements of mindfulness, choice, and self-direction. Calming Centers components include designated quiet space, comfortable seating, lighting, nature, sensory materials, posters and activities to guide use of the space. Students can choose breathing activities, sensory activities, and focused attention activities to help them to recover, reset, and re-engage. Calming Centers support our goal of reducing suspensions by providing a proactive intervention to address behavior needs.

Every school site received materials to set up two Calming Centers. The K 8 Schools received enough materials for a Calming Center geared towards primary students and another one geared towards intermediate and middle school students. Most materials were received over the summer and picked up in July, before school started. If a site needs assistance, they should reach out to the Student Services Department and School Counseling Program Specialists.

6. I would like to sign my 4-year-old daughter up for school but she does not have immunization shots due to religious reasons. Would I be able to sign a document or bring a letter from my pastor to excuse the immunization requirement for religious beliefs?

Based on requirements from the California Department of Health, beginning on January 1, 2016, exemptions based on personal beliefs, including religious beliefs, are no longer an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into childcare or school in California.

7. At the Conversations with the Superintendent, you showed pictures of data dashboards. How do you get to that dashboard?

To get to the Student Achievement Dashboard, you can follow these steps:

- 1) Go to the District website and click on the Departments/Programs tab
- 2) Scroll down to and click the Research & Accountability link
- 3) Scroll down and click on the Staff icon
- 4) You will be prompted to sign in as staff
- 5) Select the Data icon
- 6) Select Dashboards icon
- 7) Click on Other Reports
- 8) On the Ensuring Student Success Dashboard, click onto page 4.

The dashboard will look like the image below:

Ensuring Success Report



8. Do you offer childcare at the Adult School? I can't do classes if there is no childcare.
We do offer childcare. Head Start is located in the School for Adults campus. Please call 209-933-7455 ext. 1418 for eligibility requirements and more information.

9. How do I enroll my 19-year-old son for GED in person class?

We have GED Test Preparation through our Stockton School of Adults. You may register your son through the information below. You can also find more information at:

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/domain/696>

Step 1: Fill out the registration form [Day Class Registration](#) [Evening Class Registration](#)

Step 2: CONFIRM TESTING APPOINTMENT Note: A representative from Stockton School for Adults will contact you via the email address/phone number provided in your registration, to schedule your required placement test

Step 3: PLACEMENT TEST - Take your placement test

Step 4: START DATE - Start classes

No transcripts are needed

10. When is the townhall on Fentanyl happening? I have not seen much information on it.


The San Joaquin County Office of Education in collaboration with the San Joaquin County Opioid Safety Coalition and the San Joaquin County Public Health Services is having a townhall on Fentanyl on Monday, October 9, 2023 from 5:30-8:00pm at the Wentworth Education Center at 2707 Transworld Drive, Stockton, CA. Please see the flyer below.

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
FENTANYL
TOWN HALL
MEETING**

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2023
5:30 - 8:00 P.M.**

Wentworth Education Center
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton, CA 95206

**There is no cost to attend.
Dinner and dessert will be provided.
RSVP at bit.ly/FentanylTownHall23**



[209] 468-9089
nhana@sjcoe.net
www.sjcoe.org

ONE PILL CAN KILL
Fentanyl overdose deaths are on the rise in San Joaquin County. Let's talk about the dangers of fentanyl and learn how we can better protect our children and students from the lethal drug.

WHAT WE'LL COVER:

- Scope of the problem
- Individuals with lived experiences
- Overdose prevention
- Keynote Speaker Tony Hoffman
- Substance use disorder and mental health treatment in San Joaquin County
- Parent and educator prevention resources
- Panel Q&A
- Wall of Remembrance

DID YOU KNOW?
Did you know that Narcan can reverse overdose in an emergency situation? Attendees can receive a [free Narcan kit](#) at this event.