



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #7 2024-25 School Year – Week of September 16, 2024

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

1. What exactly do the officers do? It seems whenever we call, we are told that it is the site's responsibility or that they do not come out for those calls.

The Department of Public Safety is a District resource and helps provide a safe learning environment for staff and students. They are sworn officers under penal code 830.32 and respond mainly to criminal matters on our campus to include outside threats such as trespassers, parent conflicts, traffic enforcement, etc. The Department also focuses on being proactive by positively engaging our students through their Emergency Preparedness Division and work on various District safety projects, Police Activities League, School Resource Officer (SRO) program, Traffic Safety Program, Crossing Guard Program, Explorer Program, and the various presentations and trainings they provide students and staff. The department does not respond to certain calls for service due to changes in law and the Department of Justice Settlement agreement. California law removed juveniles under the age of 12 from the criminal jurisdiction meaning a child 12 and under cannot commit a crime unless it is a homicide or rape (serious/violent offenses). Further, the department does not handle school discipline or low-level offenses that can be best handled by the educational environment. This resulted from the DOJ agreement due to a District overuse of the department in matters that should have been handled administratively by the school site which in turn criminalized our youth. There are twelve type of calls the department will not respond to which are: (1) Defiance, (2) Disorderly Conduct, (3) Disturbing the Peace, (4) Student Trespassing, (5) Student Loitering, (6) Using Profanity, (7) Verbal Altercations except where threats of serious injury or hate speech are involved, (8) Fights with no injuries, (9) Possession of alcohol or tobacco, (10), Vandalism under \$400, (11) Theft less than \$50, and (12) Truancy. The goal of the Department of Public Safety is to support our staff and students to ensure educational success while not over-criminalizing our students in matters that would otherwise be handled by school staff.

2. How many district police officers do you have on payroll? And how many are actively patrolling? With all the school threats and shootings nationwide, more precautions should be taken place. What do the district police officers do throughout their workday? Is it possible for at least one police officer to be present at each school throughout the school day, making frequent rounds behind the wheel as well as on feet? I believe this would prevent or at the least have intruders second

guess trespassing as well as create reassurance for students, teachers/staff and parents.

The Department of Public Safety is a police agency that operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Although we have made strides to fill open positions in the last year, and the Department is allotted 35 positions for sworn staff, they currently only have 25 sworn positions filled along with two additional trainee positions in the Academy. This includes their management positions, namely the Chief, a Lieutenant, and six sergeants. Their active patrol staff consists of 17 sworn officers/corporals who cover the various shifts which include dayshift, swing shift and graveyard shift. Day shift consists of a School Resource Officer (SRO) at each comprehensive high school, school for adults, three patrol officers, and a sergeant that patrols the remainder of the District. Graveyard consists of two officers whose goal is to protect District assets by responding to burglar alarms, trespassers, and squatters who may attempt to gain access to our facilities. During the day, officers respond to traffic control/enforcement at school sites, patrol various school sites to ensure student and staff safety, respond to calls for service, conduct presentations for students on various topics, engage positively with students to build and foster relationships, provide trainings on lockdowns and safety programs, cover athletic events, write reports and when necessary, make arrests. The Department also focuses on being proactive by positively engaging our students through their Emergency Preparedness Division and work on various District safety projects, Police Activities League, School Resource Officer (SRO) program, Traffic Safety Program, Crossing Guard Program, Explorer Program, and the various presentations and trainings they provide students and staff. Based on our current department size we would be unable to have an officer at each school site as the District has over 52 school sites throughout the city and county. The Department organizes their schedules, shifts, and beats to best meet the needs of the District and provide the most efficient service and response to any potential threats to our campuses. The Department is a very valuable asset during school threats as they have the privilege to contact and obtain confidential information from Federal agencies and National Crime Information Centers. This includes information sharing with other law enforcement agencies that help investigations that we as a District would otherwise not have the ability to obtain. Please feel free to visit their website at <https://stocktonusdpolice.org/> to learn more about the Department.

- 3. After many recent incidents of school shootings & safety threats throughout the state and the country, many staff have begun to plan for such a scenario. A concern is that there is no way to lock the classroom from inside the classroom if such a incident were to occur. It would be great for the safety of each class to be able to lock the their door from the inside of the classroom. Currently, the only way to lock a classroom is to step outside the door and lock it from the outside. This would not be safe in case of an emergency. It would put all staff at risk that need to step out to lock their door. It would be great to have door lock access from inside the classroom installed as well in all classrooms at each school. I know that all parents would feel safer sending their kids to school, staff, and students would feel safer at school. Please take this into consideration. Thank you**

Due to these concerns, the District has an expectation that all classroom doors remain closed and locked at all times. We are considering various ways to ensure this happens through policy and improved locking mechanisms. This past year, we have vetted some companies such as Safe Bolt through a pilot program, however, they were deemed to be unsuitable for the District needs. We are currently vetting other locking mechanism options to determine which company can provide exactly what the District is looking for and can be used at our sites that vary in age and material. In the interim, maintaining a closed and locked door at all times during school hours accomplishes our goal to maintain a safe and secure classroom. However, we do understand staff concerns and would like to provide the ability for teachers to have an option to open their doors with the ability to lock them quickly and from the inside. We are working to have that option available in the future.

4. My child's teacher must buy pencils, paper and crayons with her own money. Why doesn't the school provide this?

Last school year, we began a process of supporting our teachers by allocating \$250 to each of them in recognition of the personal funds they often spend on classroom supplies. I am happy to share that this year, the allocation was increased to \$500, and it was approved by the SUSD Board of Trustees just last week. In addition to this support, there are site funds available that should be used for basic supplies like pencils, paper, and crayons. I encourage you to reach out to the school directly if you have any questions about the availability of these resources.

5. When are the SLPs going to get the new promised salary schedule? We have been waiting for months.

Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs) are represented by SPPA. As such, the district made a [proposal for salary realignment](#) on August 16th, 2024 to SPPA. Once we received [SPPA's counter](#) this week, we immediately gave SPPA a [second counter proposal](#). We are hoping to reach an agreement soon. At this time, SPPA can either counter our proposal or accept our proposal. We are hoping to receive an answer before the next negotiation session scheduled for 10/15/24. The district is available to meet earlier to negotiate if necessary. For negotiation updates, please visit our [Labor Relations Website](#).

6. Good morning, I have a quick question is the district obligated to provide rooms private rooms or private area where a mom can pump her milk for her baby while she is at work? Is the mom allotted time or can she only use her break time or is that time adjustable to fit the need of her body? Thank you for your response.

The district is obligated to provide appropriate accommodations for employees who need to express milk during work hours, as outlined under California Labor Code Sections 1030-1034. Specifically, the district must ensure that:

- A private, clean space is available for pumping, which is free from intrusion (for example, a room that can be locked to prevent interruptions).
- The space cannot be a bathroom.

- It must be close to the employee's work area.
- The location should include seating and a surface for placing the breast pump and personal items.
- Access to electricity is required for the breast pump, and ideally, a sink with running water for washing pump parts should be nearby.
- A refrigerator or other cooling device must be available for storing expressed milk.

Regarding break time:

- Employees are entitled to a reasonable amount of time to express milk as often as needed.
- Lactation breaks can coincide with regular break times, but if additional time is required, it must be provided. However, this extra time is not required to be paid.

If you have any questions about these requirements or need assistance in setting up the necessary accommodations, please feel free to contact Risk Management for guidance.

7. I am looking forward to having the hydration station at my site. What will it look like and when will we have it?

The hydration stations are currently being installed at all of SUSD school sites. We are on track to have all of the hydration stations installed by October 30, 2024. Below is a picture of what the hydration stations will look like.



8. I am a math teacher in the district and I am wondering if you would be able to provide insight into the new 9th grade curriculum - specifically Pre-AP Algebra 1, 1A/B, etc. I am learning that for Pre-AP Algebra 1A/B, SUSD is offering elective credit instead of math credit. If this is true, do our current 9th graders enrolled in this course need to take Algebra 1 again for 10th grade so that it can "count" for math? If a student takes and passes Pre-AP Algebra 1B (the second part), do they receive math credit then? Please advise.

Our new Pre-AP Algebra curriculum counts as math credits but might also earn elective credits depending on the course. Pre-AP counts as 10 math credits, Pre-AP 1A/1B counts as 10 math and 10 elective credits, and Pre-AP 1A1/1A2/1B1/1B2 (SPED) counts as 20 math and 20 elective. The Pre-AP 1A1/1A2/1B1/1B2 (SPED) takes both 9th and 10th grade to complete. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ms. Melissa Sigars, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development at msigars@stocktonusd.net or Mr. [Andrew Walter](mailto:awalter@stocktonusd.org) at awalter@stocktonusd.org. Below is a visual representation of our Pre-AP Algebra Course schedule alignment:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Students coming in on grade | Pre-AP Algebra 1 - 603500 (10 units math) | | Pre-AP Algebra 1 - 603500 (10 units of math) | |
| | August - October | October - December | Jan - March | March - May |
| Students coming in below grade | Pre-AP 1A Term 1 224001 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1A Term 2 224002 (5 units math) | Pre-AP 1B Term 3 224303 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1B Term 4 224304 (5 units math) |
| | August - October | October - December | Jan - March | March - May |
| SPED/SAI students | Pre-AP 1A1 Term 1 224151 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1A1 Term 2 224152 (5 units math) | Pre-AP 1A2 Term 3 224253 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1A2 Term 4 224254 (5 units math) |
| | August - October | October - December | Jan - March | March - May |
| | Pre-AP 1B1 Term 1 224451 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1B1 Term 2 224452 (5 units math) | Pre-AP 1B2 Term 3 224553 (5 units elective) | Pre-AP 1B2 Term 4 224554 (5 units math) |
| | | | | 9th Grade |
| | | | | 10th grade |

9. I am inquiring about this as an employee but also as a taxpayer. I would like to know how much the district receives in Medi-Cal reimbursement funds. And out of that income, how much of it is generated from Speech Language Pathologists vs. Nurses vs. School Psychologists vs. other sources (ideally a pie-chart would be a wonderful graphic). Additionally, is there a policy for how Medi-Cal money is spent? Who makes the allocations for Medi-Cal funding spending? How is this money spent? Is there a Medi-Cal committee who makes decisions on how this money is spent? If so, who makes up this committee? It is my understanding that the money received from Medi-Cal reimbursement is to go back to the students however as an employee who generates funds (as it is a requirement of my job), I am given very little money (last year it was \$250) for materials/supplies/training to be used to support the students I serve. As a taxpayer, I am concerned that the district is not using these funds appropriately. If Medi-Cal reimbursement money is not allocated to go back to the students, where is this money going? How is it being spent?

The LEA Medi-Cal Billing Option Program was established in 1993 in conjunction with the California Department of Education (CDE) and authorized under [California's Welfare and Institutions Code §14132.06](#). Reimbursement is based on a "fee-for-service" model. School expenditures for services rendered are reimbursed at 50% of the cost. SUSD was reimbursed approximately \$3.9 million for Medi-Cal billing in the 2023-2024 school

year. Funding fluctuates each school year based on the number of reimbursement claims submitted by authorized staff. Documentation includes medical diagnosis and procedure codes determined by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Funding is not allocated the year it is generated.

Eligible services that can be funded include:

- **Audiology Services**
- **Health and Mental Health Evaluation and Education Assessments**
- **Medical Transportation**
- **Nursing Services**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Psychology and Counseling**
- **School Health Aide Services**
- **Speech Therapy**
- **Targeted Case Management**

SUSD funding generated in the 2023-2024 school year are as follows:

- **Speech** for a total of approximately \$193,000
- **Psychology/counseling** for a total of approximately \$90,000
- **Nurses** for a total of approximately \$45,000
- **Occupational Therapy** for a total of approximately \$3,000
- **Psychology/social work** for a total of approximately \$8,000

Furthermore, the District must contract with a Medi-Cal provider to help recover funds to provide federally mandated health-related services to students. SUSD has a contract with Leader Services, which includes access to software, training, and materials for the billing process. Leader Services is compensated at 8.5% of the total district reimbursement amount. In addition, 20% of the remainder of the reimbursement is allocated to the District's program oversight lead department.

A District committee meets regularly to review the funding generated. The committee is composed of the Director of Health Services, Director of School-Based Mental Health, Executive Director of Special Education, Director of Student Support Services, Administrator of Health Services, Community Partner, Administrator of Special Education, Budget Assistant from Business Services, and the Program Coordinator of Health Services.

The Medi-Cal Managers' Committee meets quarterly each school year to review allocations and data specific to the services generating the funds. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th. During this meeting, the committee will allocate funds

aligned to the services provided by each department. Currently, each department lead reviews expenditure requests for approval from their respective staff. If the request is deemed compliant and necessary, it's approved and processed. Each team lead provides a form to fill out with the expenditure request. Team leads can also recommend priority expenditures based on a needs analysis and discussion with their department staff. All costs must meet the state guidelines.

10. Is there a timeframe when the new employee parking lot will be completed at the district office?

We have been waiting for final approval from PG&E, which is necessary to make the lights functional. In the interim, we plan to place gravel on the small unpaved portion so we can open the area by October 7, 2024. We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to complete the new employee parking lot at the District office.