



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #22 2023-24 School Year – Week of February 5, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. I know that you answer questions on Ask Dr. Rodriguez. Do other departments do it as well?

In response to community and family requests, we are adding on additional departments linked to the volume of questions I receive starting with the Transportation Department and Admissions Department. The Transportation Department is first and has launched the “Let’s Talk” platform to address concerns and issues that arise regarding the Transportation Department and its services. They have a dedicated team ready to respond to a variety of different topics and find resolutions and solutions. The link to Let’s Talk on the Transportation website’s main page is: <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Domain/158>

Welcome to Transportation Department

Let's Talk!, Stockton Unified School District Transportation

Welcome to Stockton Unified Schools District Transportation! We are excited to introduce Let's Talk as our streamline communication platform, designed to enhance customer service.

Utilize the topics buttons below to ask questions, make requests, or provide feedback, ensuring a seamless and efficient interaction with our transportation department. Your input is invaluable in helping us serve you better.

Top Topics:

Citizen/Community Member Concern	Missed bus stop concern
Special Education Daily Bus Ride Cancellations	

Transportation General

Employee Kudos/ Recognitions	Kindergarten Waiver
Lost Item	Student Safety Concern

Special Education Transportation

Special Education Transportation Permanent Cancellati...	Special Education Waiver
Special Programs Cancellations	

Bus Stop and Route Concerns

Bus arrived early	Bus arrived late
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2. How do you select which questions to include on your weekly Ask Dr. Rodriguez? I sent you a question and you answered me, but you did not include it in the weekly questions.

I receive between 20-30 questions each week between Let’s Talk and emailed questions. I select the questions either that have been asked multiple times or questions that apply to a large number of staff and/or community members.

3. **How do we register our kids for spring day camp?**

Our Spring break day camps operate from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at participating sites and are designed to keep the spirit of exploration and wonder alive during the break. Our programs offer breakfast, lunch, and a super snack to all students enrolled. The staff leads a dynamic blend of activities, excursions, and hands-on learning experiences to make your child's spring break memorable and engaging.

Spring Break Highlights:

1. **Creative Workshops:** From arts and crafts to theater and music, your child will have the chance to unleash their creativity in a fun and supportive environment.
2. **Field Trips:** We have exciting field trips planned to local attractions and educational destinations, allowing your child to discover new places and interests.
3. **Outdoor Adventures:** Nature walks, gardening, and outdoor games will connect your child with the beauty of the spring season.
4. **Reading Adventures:** Our reading sessions will transport your child to fascinating worlds through books, fostering a love for reading.
5. **Cooking Fun:** We'll explore culinary delights with kid-friendly cooking sessions, encouraging teamwork and a taste for new flavors.
6. **Themed Days:** Each day can have a unique theme, ensuring your child experiences a wide range of enriching activities.

Program Details:

- Dates: March 18, 2024 - March 21, 2024
- Hours: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
- Location: Participating TK-8 sites. Sites shown at the time of registration
- Grade Levels: TK-8

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

4. **I have a child who will be in kindergarten next year. When can I sign her up?**

Registration for both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten will open on February 13, 2024. SUSD held virtual Pre-k, TK and Kindergarten Information Sessions for the 2024-2025 school year on February 8th, 2024. You can listen to a recording of these information sessions for families to learn about online or in-person enrollment for Pre-k, Full Day Transitional Kindergarten (TK), Full Day Kindergarten and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) available to all elementary students. Here is the [link](#) to the transitional kindergarten and kindergarten registration.

5. **Our school has been open for 25 years. With basic wear and tear student desks, student chairs, and staff chairs are in an unrepairable state. Do these basic daily items need to come out of the school's general budget (same budget which purchases classroom supplies) to replace?**

Based upon feedback from the Facilities Townhall and comments heard during my weekly Conversations with the Superintendent with school sites and departments, we are moving through the bidding and approval process to provide new furniture in all classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year using remaining one-time ESSER funding.

- 6. Hello. My child is going to 9th grade next year. she is very interested in the 2 weeks pre college summer program UOP offered (UOP summer high school institute). I know that Stockton USD Sponsored for this program. Can you please advise how do I get the code and or apply for the Stockton USD Sponsored for my child so she able to attend this UOP summer program. Thanks so much**

Currently, all SUSD high schools were provided with an equal number of registrations for their 9-11 grade students. Once a student registers, they will have to be cleared by the Principal and Counselor before being admitted by the University of the Pacific Summer Program. Interested students should connect with their Principals and Counselors for additional information. Beginning next week, incoming 9th graders will have the opportunity to apply through a QR code provided through their K-8 site.

The University of Pacific will have parent information nights in the Spring for students who are registered and their parents.

- 7. How do we hold admin, mainly principals, accountable for providing misinformation about the special education process to families and staff? I don't want retaliation but it's going too far. Families shouldn't be told that they have to go to their family doctor to get a diagnosis before their child is assessed. Can we educate admins about Child Find?**

Our Special Education Department presents regularly with our site administrators to provide information on various special education topics including Special Education Referrals and Assessments. This includes information specifically around Child Find and our legal obligations.

The Child Find Program requires all school districts in California to locate, identify, and evaluate all children with a suspected disability, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, from birth to 21 years of age, inclusive, children not enrolled in public school programs, homeless children or who are wards of the state, children attending private or religious elementary schools, and migrant children. Those who are in need of special education and related services, shall be identified, located, assessed, and if eligible, offered FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education).

SUSD will continue to educate on Child Find through professional development and a variety of shared communications via Communities of Practice, Notebooks, and newsletters. If a teacher has any question around a concern in regard to Special Ed practices, they should always share this with their Program Specialist, or Special Education Administrator.

- 8. I want to sign up for my daughter's field trip. How do I do it?**

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you will need to visit the BAM website: <http://beamentor.org/stockton>. Here you will need to enter your personal information and select the school site(s) and/or program(s) you would like to volunteer with. Your information will then be forwarded to the selected school(s)/program(s) (e.g., PYA, Stagg, Preschool). The BAM coordinator from the site/program will review and approve your application to volunteer. Once you are approved by the site/program, you will be referred to the Police Department for a background check, ID badge, and possible fingerprinting.

9. It's been 2 weeks and I have not been notified if I got accepted into Weber, how long do I have to keep waiting to know if I got accepted or not?

Each Specialty High School manages their own registration. Weber Institute is accepting their applications on site. They have been reviewing applications about every two weeks. They reviewed applications on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Students should be getting notified by Friday, February 9, 2024, about their application status.

10. Can we have a district wide release day instead of doing individual waivers?

Our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with STA requires school sites to submit individual waivers for early release days in order for sites to bank minutes for these modified days. SUSD is not against district wide release day, however it would need to be negotiated to be approved. In addition, our Transportation Department would also need to be able to accommodate the implementation as well.