



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #8 2023-24 School Year – Week of October 3, 2023

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

1. I heard you were having a State of the District. What is that?

This will become an annual event where we will celebrate the successes of the SUSD as well as speak to future collective goals. I will be releasing the results of my 100 Day Plan within the first State of the District report. As students are at the center of our decisions, the event will feature student performers and a live virtual visit into our Women in Construction CTE class. The student performers will include Mr. Art Coleman and his Jazz Band, the Chavez Show Choir singing the National Anthem and an additional song, the Fremont 8th grade Bulldog Jazz Combo and finally to honor Hispanic Heritage month, Mariachi Chavez will be part of this special event. In addition to our student performers, we will have actor Mr. Edward James Olmos as our keynote speaker, hear comments from Board President Flores, Vice President Stevens and see my presentation of the State of the District report.

2. How much money will you spend on the State of the District event?

As we are holding the State of the District at Franklin High School and we are receiving donations for the light refreshments and decorations, the cost will be minimal. For example, coffee is being donated by Starbucks on Waterloo Road, fruit is being donated by a local produce company and flower arrangements are being donated by our Stag High School Horticulture Class. The only cost to the district will be transportation of our student performers from their school to Franklin High School.

3. You came to my school but not for the official visit. How many schools have you visited so far? Will you be coming to Fremont Elementary soon?

School site visits are important to me as they provide a good perspective on what is occurring in the schools and allow me to engage with site staff and administration. By the end of this week, I will have visited 43 of our 55 sites. As the site administrators selected the date of my visit, the majority of them selected it during the first several months of the school year. I will visit Fremont Elementary again on November 7, 2023. I will have a second visit to all sites during the second half of the year.

4. Is the district going to have a townhall regarding special education in the future?

After attending the Special Education meeting on Wednesday for parents, I saw that there is a need for this. We were told of focus groups, but I see no advertisements of any of these groups. Something transparent and district wide needs to happen that parents, staff, and community members can attend.

We listened to the feedback at this week's meeting and are scheduling a town hall around Special Education on Monday, November 6, 2023, from 5:15-6:30pm. Additional information including location will be provided within the next several weeks.

5. Do you have an update on the Volunteer Fair that you mentioned?

We have our Volunteer Fair scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd at the Department of Public Safety. In addition to fingerprinting, we will have 8 nurses to assist with the TB portion of the volunteer process. However, parents will need to go to their primary care physician and use their insurance or cover the costs themselves if they need to take a TB x-ray test. Below is the flyer for the event:



6. My younger child had a parent conference at Hoover but my older child has not had one. Do all teachers have conferences?

Each school site in SUSD determines the Parent Conferences based on their schedule. Some sites have fall conferences and others have their first Parent Conferences in winter. All K-8 students should be receiving a Parent Conference at some time this school year. Please reach out directly to your school site office, classroom teacher, and or principal for this year's Parent Conference Schedule since it does vary by site.

7. Hi, I would like to know when is the graduation date for the class of 2024? A family plans to visit and is booking an airline tickets. Thank you!

High School graduation dates for the 2023-2024 school are currently being scheduled. Graduation dates will be confirmed by the end of October and shared with the families, staff, and community.

8. Are there plans to adopt a new ELA and Math curriculum?

Currently, in Elementary and Middle School SUSD is planning to adopt a new core curriculum since we are still within our current adoption cycle. There is no plan at this time to adopt a new English Language Arts curriculum in High School as we are within the current adoption cycle.

For High School Mathematics, the Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II sequence adoption expires this year. CDE is still completing our new Mathematics Frameworks for the state of California. However, Curriculum and Instruction is considering reviewing and analyzing new texts in conjunction with assessing the current pathways. There is an opportunity to incorporate Algebra II content with AP Pre-Calculus. In addition, this analysis needs to include the new possible pathways for 3 years of math that include non-traditional math courses, such as Personal Finance, Intro to Statistics, or Computer Programming. Curriculum and Instruction is also considering replacing Algebra I with Pre-AP Algebra and replacing Geometry with Pre-AP Geometry, as these frameworks are nearly identical while removing non-essential math topics. For any new adoptions, or changes, there will be information provided to teachers to participate in providing feedback and participating in a pilot process.

9. I am inquiring about the PAC. To help better serve our families how are parents able to join these leadership committees such as PAC & AABPAC?

The purpose of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), African-American/Black Parent Advisory Committee (AABPAC), and Latino Parent Advisory Committee (Latino PAC) are to advise, recommend, and review the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

These Committees offer SUSD parents a welcoming and engaging place to build their leadership skills, provide essential input to our district and make connections to other families. Parents can find the application through the Parent Advisory Committee webpages. For AABPAC, you can find the application at the following [link](#).

10. Is there any way you can make paycheck stubs easier to read? They are so complicated to read even when payroll explains it to myself and coworkers its can be so confusing at times.

We have been working with the bargaining units to try to address this issue and make it easier to interpret the paychecks. We recognize that it can be difficult to interpret due to the varying codes for every type of work being performed and how certain pay must be reported to retirement systems based on if the members are Classic or Prepa members. To assist staff, the Payroll Department is in the process of putting together a “cheat sheet” for the payroll webpage.