



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #19 2023-24 School Year – Week of January 15, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. Will all classrooms have the noise level microphones and light level machines installed in all classrooms throughout the district? Can you briefly explain what these machines are?

As part of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP), there will be an assessment of the Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) of our schools. We know that the environmental conditions in classrooms matter and have a direct impact on occupant health and how we learn, focus, and teach. Sensors will be placed in two representative classrooms in each school to track air quality, classroom acoustics (decibel levels only), and temperature. The sensors are minimally disruptive during the school day and will only require a Perkins Eastman team member to visit the (2) classrooms to install and remove the sensor a week later. The sensors are continuously logging data for evaluation. The data from the sensors will help us understand the environmental conditions, functionality of the mechanical systems, and help us identify areas of need for potential investment to improve IEQ. The IEQ work should be completed by March 2024.

2. For the Food Panty on Pacific Ave, wanted to know if we to bring anything like identification or proof of address etc?

The Food Pantry at the Family Resource Center is open from 8am-4pm every weekday (except during school breaks/holidays). We ask that parents sign-in with their name and the name of student ID# of their child, along with the school site they attend. They do not need to bring any physical identification as we are able to verify in our office their affiliation with SUSD. If they are in need of food and are not able to come to our office, they can call us at 209-933-7470 and we can support in getting food to them.

3. I attended the Specialty School Fair last night but I did not get a copy of the brochure. Where can I get a copy of it? I prefer to have it in Spanish.

All SUSD documents are available in both English and Spanish. You can find the new Specialty School Brochure at the following [link](#).

4. I was just wondering if there were any plans in place to provide professional development for Classified Staff and/or training for new Classified Staff. Currently, we are kind of just thrust into our positions. There are clerical meetings but those do not provide all of the training necessary.

Providing all of our SUSD staff with professional development and a proper orientation is a priority for us. The importance of these trainings was noted at the 21 Listening Sessions and Town Halls that I held earlier in the year. For that reason, developing a classified orientation and professional development program similar to what we offer our certificated staff is one of my 44 priority recommendations. As there are multiple

classifications within our classified staff, Human Resources will be working with the individual departments to create a professional development process. We should have the new process in place by the 2024-2025 school year.

5. Dr. Rodriguez, Thank you for posting information about negotiations. Why is CSEA 821 not on the negotiation updates?

SUSD has not had formal contract negotiations with CSEA. Sunshine proposals have been going through the Board approval process in December and January and negotiation sessions are being scheduled for February. Once sessions start, we will be providing updates on our website.

6. When and how do I enroll my child for high school?

If you have an 8th grader who will attend their assigned high school by their home residence, you do not have to complete any additional steps. Your child will be automatically enrolled in that high school. If you want your child to attend another high school in the District, including a Specialty School, you will need to complete additional paperwork including an interdistrict transfer form. You can find all of the information at the Admission and Family Services Department at the [following link](#).

7. I have a question of where to go for virtual high school learning?

Currently Stockton Alternative High School (SAHS) offers virtual options for particular courses of study. Students are enrolled after the parent/guardian and student participate in an orientation which will outline specific expectations of the school. Stockton Alternative High School is an independent study school. Students approved to enter our virtual program, will also need to be committed to completing course work as independent learners with minimal in-person assistance.

For additional information, please contact Stockton Alternative High School at 933-7365. Their office staff and Principal, Mr. Tommy Mogan will be more than happy to assist you.

8. A few years ago, when schools called parents or sent robo-calls, the school name and number showed up on caller ID. Unfortunately, it is no longer like that. Now, the general phone number (209) 933-7000 shows up on caller ID from any district phone. If my child's school is in a lockdown and admin sends a call out to parents during the school day, it is the same phone number that shows up for calls regarding community event information, preschool registration, etc. If there is no way to modify the caller ID to show the specific schools making the call like in year's past, is there a way to designate a window of time during the day to send out non-emergency phone calls from the district? For example, special invitations and other information can be called out between 5-7pm so that parents know if they receive a phone call during school hours, it is highly likely pertaining specifically to their child(ren). This way, we know as parents that if that phone number shows up on caller ID during school hours, we may need to stop our tasks at work and take the call immediately. Thank you for considering this suggestion

Following the suggestion, our Technology Department was able to make the needed changes to the system to ensure that the school's name and number is used for the caller ID. Moving forward, the school's caller ID and number should show on automated

dialers sent out from the site. In addition, we will be sending all non-emergency all calls between 4-8pm.

- 9. I was wondering if there were any discounts or low cost fees for classified employees whom are bilingual to take certification classes in translation. I've encountered a lot of parents who need assistance in this area and its extremely difficult to say no in helping them. I've also been put in situations where I'm the only person on the job and there is no one to help and i clearly can and the parents know. Just a question. Thank You**

We have recently hired three additional translators as the need has been evident across the district. We currently do not offer translating classes to certify employees, but we can provide the assessments where employees can show proficiency in English and Spanish. We have also offered assessments in more than 15 other languages such as traditional Mandarin, Tagalog/Filipino, and Vietnamese for SUSD staff.

- 10. When you check your absence balances in Absence Management it still shows Covid Comp, Health & Safety and SB95 Covid Sick Leave. If we can no longer use any of these leaves why are they still showing as available on the site/app? These should be removed as the confuse and convolute the website.**

Human Resources has removed SB95 and Health & Safety balances from all employee accounts for employees with a zero COVID MOU balance. They will no longer see that option on their accounts. However, employees with balances still have the option to utilize the leave and/or request a payout.