



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #31 2023-24 School Year – Week of April 15, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

- 1. Are we going to continue being an AVID district next year? As an educator, I see the positive impact it is having on preparing our students to be career and college ready. Sites have put a lot of training, collaboration, and planning into AVID and it would be sad to see it go.**

Next year, SUSD is committed to continuous improvement in our implementation of AVID. Once again, we will provide school site teams with opportunities to attend the AVID Summer Institute in Sacramento this year. In addition, we will provide ongoing professional learning and job-embedded coaching through our two AVID Curriculum Specialists. SUSD will also assist in organizing AVID showcase experiences, professional learning during our STA Professional Learning Days, and other experiences that the site can extend through their AVID licenses. These are just the base of supports from SUSD with regard to AVID.

- 2. Most of our facilities need improvements, how will the Facilities Master Plan incorporate that?**

The Facilities Master Plan aims to address the necessary improvements in our facilities. A central focus of this plan is the comprehensive assessment of the District's buildings and facilities. The contracted team responsible for developing the master plan is actively conducting ongoing assessments of the buildings, building systems and sites with the expertise of architects and engineers. These assessments will help identify areas requiring investment and establish a framework to prioritize projects effectively. We will have the preliminary report for staff to review by the last week in May.

- 3. Will there be transportation available for children with IEPs for the Summer Program? Thank you**

There will be transportation going to Summer Programs for all students with an IEP who want to participate. There is a deadline for registration for all students who require transportation and that date is April 30, 2024. Parents can register their students at their school site or at www.stocktonusd.net.

- 4. How do I register my child for the Summer Program?**

You can now register for the TK-8th grade Summer Program at the following link: [Click Here to Register / Haga clic aquí para registrarse](#) Below is information on the program:

ELOP is a one-of-a-kind summer program carefully crafted to inspire, engage, and empower students from TK (Transitional Kindergarten) to 8th grade. Whether your child is a budding scientist, an aspiring artist, a future engineer, a dynamic athlete, a phenomenal cook, or simply looking to have a blast during the summer break, ELOP has something special for everyone!

What Makes ELOP Unique?

1. **Diverse Enrichment Activities:** Our program offers a wide array of hands-on activities, from science experiments and coding challenges to creative arts and outdoor adventures. Each day brings new opportunities to explore and learn.
2. **Curriculum Aligned Learning:** ELOP integrates teacher-led age-appropriate academic components into the program, ensuring that your child's summer is both fun and educational. We believe in promoting a love for learning!
3. **Experienced Educators:** Our team of passionate and qualified educators are dedicated to nurturing your child's intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Your child will be guided by caring professionals who prioritize their well-being.
4. **Building Lifelong Friendships:** ELOP encourages teamwork and social interaction through group activities, games, and collaborative projects. Your child will make friends and create memories that last a lifetime.
5. **Safe and Supportive Environment:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of your child. Our program is hosted in a secure environment where every child can thrive and be themselves.

Program Details

- Dates: June 3, 2024 - June 28, 2024
- Hours: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
- Location: Participating TK-8 sites. Sites shown at the time of registration
- Grade Levels: TK-8

5. You talked about the Public Accountability Dashboard at our Conversations with the Superintendent. Where can I find it and how often do you update it?

You can find the Public Accountability Dashboard at allofsusd.net in English and at todosjuntosensusd.net in Spanish. We update the Dashboard approximately every month. The last update was on April 3, 2024.

6. I am an employee with SUSD and I would like to take a typing test. Unfortunately, on the job descriptions it says typing tests with School For Adults only and the times are only mornings. I don't think that is fair because most people work mornings. Is there any way there can be later times or at least get typing tests from other agencies? I think that would be beneficial for a lot of people.

School for Adults offers typing tests Mondays and Fridays from 8:15 to 10:45 am. However, accommodations can be made for SUSD employees who need a later appointment. Please email Brian Canepa (bcanepa@stocktonusd.net) for more details.

7. **Hi Dr. Rodriguez,**

For the past 10 years I have noted on EVERY single Williams' Act notice that our school is out of compliance and does not have does that lock from the inside. So each and every lockdown drill (or actual), teachers have to peek their heads out the door and run out real quick to lock the doors. Our district NEEDS to fix this, and further more I would like to extend the conversation to find out WHY this has taken ten years to resolve. THANKS!

We are currently exploring different types of locking mechanisms that can work with our various doors throughout the District. This includes doors with traditional door locking handles and push bars. We completed a pilot of one prototype, SafeLock, in several schools that did not work. We are now looking at another mechanism that can meet the requirement and can be locked and unlocked from inside the classroom.

It is considered best practice for school locks to be capable of locking from the inside. Although it is unknown why this was not addressed in the past, the current district expectation is that all classroom doors remain locked during school hours. This ensures that the door is locked and does not require a teacher to step out and lock it during an emergency, unnecessarily exposing themselves to danger. We will maintain this practice until we have the proper locking mechanisms on all doors.

8. **The labor relations page should be updated after each meeting, there seems to be a long delay? What is the latest update on bargaining for STA?**

We appreciate your valuable feedback regarding the website. We are pleased to learn that the information has been useful. As a part of our commitment to provide up-to-date information, Labor Relations will be updating the website on a weekly basis moving forward. We thank you for your continued support.

9. **Hello good afternoon. I just had a question about the cap and gown for my son who is graduating this year from Cesar Chavez High School. Is there a website I can order it from or if possible can I buy it in person?**

You can order the cap and gown for your son through the Jostens website at Jostens.com at the following [the page](#). You cannot purchase the cap and gown in person, however, if you need assistance moving through the online process, please contact the site for this support.

10. **How do I know which unit I earn from professional development is accepted by the district to be able to move to the next pay salary column? And how/who do I reach out to about how many units I have that has already been accepted? I cannot find a forum for this concern. Thank you so much!**

For salary schedule advancement, the District accepts any upper division/graduate level course work from any accredited college/university. The coursework must be submitted in the form of an official transcript from the college/university and is due to Human Resources by November 1st each school year. All course work must be completed prior to the first day of the employee's work year, in order to move over on the salary schedule for the current school year. You can reach out directly to their assigned Personnel Analyst to find out how many units you have on file.