



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #33 2023-24 School Year – Week of April 29, 2024
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

- 1. When is the SPPA Calendar going to be released? HR has not updated the calendar and we do not have a return-to-work date visible online. Please advise.**

The SPPA Calendars are now complete and on the website:

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/18055>

- 2. My child has a work permit, and she wants to make more money to help our family pay the bills. Her school told her you closed the work experience program. My older child was in the work experience program so he could make more money to help pay the bills. You want students in internships. My child does not want an internship. Students and their families should have a choice. Why can't you have the work experience program and internships the same time?**

Students with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher and satisfactory school attendance are eligible for a work permit. Receiving a work permit is not dependent on being enrolled in a work experience class. A regular work permit allows a student to work up to 48 hours per week, which is achievable during breaks or holidays when a student may work 8 hours a day. When school is in session students are limited to working 4 hours on a school day within the timeframe of 5am to 10 pm. On days not followed by a school day and non-school days, students are permitted to work up to 8 hours between the hours of 5 am and 12:30 am on days not preceding a school day and up to 10 pm on days preceding a school day. This would allow students to work up to 40 hours during a regular 5 day school week. This is the equivalent of a full-time job in addition to their schooling and homework. You may learn more about obtaining a work permit at <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/9911>

- 3. Hello, I would like to know if school offers breakfast. If so, what would be the timing?**

Breakfast is available at all Stockton Unified Schools approximately 30-40 minutes before the first bell rings. Some programs, such as TK, Pre-School, and SPED, may have a slightly different time to better accommodate our student's needs. Please check with your child's school to confirm.

Breakfast menus can be found at <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/11413>. Each school provides recognizable, yet healthier version options for our students. This month, our students have been raving over the Chicken Chorizo Burrito, and the Whole Grain Cinnamon Roll and Fresh Fruit.

Any feedback or questions regarding the SUSD Child Nutrition program, please visit us at <https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/311> or call our office at 209-933-7015.

4. When I first started teaching every school in Stockton was low income but now none of the schools qualify for teacher loan forgiveness. How are we helping teachers with student loans both established and coming in.

According to the Federal Student Aid website at studentaid.gov the school or educational service agency must be listed in the Teacher Cancellation Low Income (TCLI) Directory which is published by the US Department of Education (ED) each year. In doing a search, all schools in Stockton Unified are listed under this directory and should therefore qualify for the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. Please note that there are other Eligibility Requirements listed below:

- You must not have had an outstanding balance on Direct Loans or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans as of Oct. 1, 1998, or on the date that you obtained a Direct Loan or FFEL Program loan after Oct. 1, 1998.
 - You must have been employed as a full-time, highly qualified teacher for five complete and consecutive academic years, and at least one of those years must have been after the 1997–98 academic year.
 - You must have been employed at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income students (a "low-income school or educational service agency").
 - The loan(s) for which you are seeking forgiveness must have been made before the end of your five academic years of qualifying teaching service.
- 5. My question is on the significant pest issue many sites are facing. Does the school district have an (IPM) Integrated Pest Management Coordinator and is there a plan of action in place to manage the pest.**

Our District Custodial Operations Manager receives many pest management concerns and works with Clark Pest Control which is the acting integrated pest management (IPM) contractor. Clark employs trained technicians who are responsive, proactive and engage in sustainable practices. They implement the best pest control care strategies for District property.

- Clark provides pre-audit preparation consultation and audit assistance.
- Clark ensures the district meets the requirements of all auditing agencies.
- Clark will produce specific documentation to comply with all third-party audit requirements.
- Clark will create clear, concise Pest Management Inspection Reports (PMI) reports that can be maintained on-site in binders or electronically.
- Clark includes documentation with product labels and safety data sheets (SDS's); show performed service, materials and future recommendations.

As an added step to control future pest issues, the District is replacing carpet with flooring in 229 rooms throughout the District with a focus on portables which commonly have more pest control issues.

6. When will high school students know the dates and times for summer school?

The high school summer school schedule has been finalized and can be found below:



High School Extended Year Schedule

School Site	Morning Session	Afternoon Session	Evening Session	Dates	Site Lead
Chavez High School	8:00-12:00	12:30-4:30	5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-July 26	Ryan Juarez/Margaret Salazar
Edison High School	8:00-12:00	12:30-4:30	5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-July 26	Richard Lynch
Franklin High School	8:00-12:00		5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-July 26	Alexander Cook
Stagg High School	8:00-12:00		5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-July 26	Chris Kleinert
HCA	8:00-12:00			June 3-28	Rhea Nelson
Merlo	8:00-12:00		5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-28	Steven Hurst/Melissa Cardenas
PLA	8:00-12:00			June 3-28	Ed Carlos
Weber	8:00-12:00	12:30-4:30		June 3-June 28	Osman Zarif
Jane Frederick	8:00-12:00			June 2-June 28	Ryan Hesse/Suzanne Anderson
Stockton High School	8:00-12:00		5:00-8:00 (Virtual)	June 3-July 12	Tommy Mogan

7. Hello, I am a teacher at Pacific Law Academy. We have two students who are participating in the Youth for Environmental Literacy Program, and they are starting a project at our school with the PLUS students where we collect, sort, and weigh all the recycling on a weekly basis. Right now we have old postal bins in the classrooms for recycling, but they leak onto the floors and aren't easy to clean. When I called Cal Waste to see about getting official blue classroom recycling bins in our rooms, Cal Waste said that distribution of those bins wasn't in their contract with SUSD. They do have it in the contract with other school districts, but they couldn't provide us bins because it of the district wide contract. Would it be possible to change the contract? I would imagine that if classrooms had official recycling bins, more students and teachers would recycle paper and other recyclable items from their classroom. Thanks!

We have officially launched a pilot recycling program at the Corp yard, Coleman Center and two pilot schools: Chavez High and Rio Calaveras. This is the first time there has ever been a program like this in SUSD. Once all the issues with the pilot schools have been resolved and correct implementation has been established, staff would like to take this program district wide. The Greater Valley Conservation Corps, a dedicated group of young adults, operating out of the San Joaquin County Office of Education, assists with handling all recycling materials, and provides bins for classrooms and office spaces for those who want to participate. For example, the Sustainability Club at Chavez High has taken on the task of placement of bins and encouraging students to recycle. The Corps provides this service at no charge and staff is working with them to assure services meet

district expectations prior to ending agreements with Cal-Waste for recycling, which is very expensive.

If any teachers are interested in implementing this program at their school, staff is more than willing to provide assistance and support every step of the way. For more information, please contact our Energy Specialist, Jermain Reece at jreece@stocktonusd.net.

8. What are the priorities of the 2024 Facilities Master Plan?

The following priorities for the 2024 Facilities Master Plan were developed through collaboration with District and School Leaders, feedback from the Superintendent's Student Council, input from the LCAP Committee, and insights gathered from a stakeholder survey with 1159 participants.

- Foster a positive school atmosphere, by creating safe and supportive spaces for students.
- Prioritize facility improvements to better support the health and well-being of staff and students.
- Provide spaces to support diverse student needs and prepare them for the real world.
- Expand successful programs and ensure equity in access.

9. Eight months ago, when asked about this, you replied that Weber was among the first schools you would walk through, and that the security of the site would be a priority. The school year is almost over, and we do not yet have a secure campus. Anyone can walk through the pedestrian gate at any time and have access to the campus.

The district's priority is to ensure student and staff safety. All safety concerns are important; however, we must prioritize safety projects by triaging each site's needs. There are five schools that lack a public address system for emergency announcements. The district has prioritized addressing these five sites to ensure that the site can make emergency notifications to its staff and students in the event of an emergency and adding preventative measures such as the access control in place. We still recognize the concern at Weber and do make it a priority, thus Weber will be the sixth site on the list. Unfortunately, strict procurement compliance guidelines have caused delays in the installation timelines, but we continue to work hard to ensure these projects get completed and installed at our school sites. The projects started on Monday, April 15, 2024, and are in progress.

10. I would like to know how I can obtain a copy of my GED certificate in order to apply for a job and I lost the only copy I had! If you could please email me with this information I would greatly appreciate it.

The GED Testing Service manages GED certificates. GED recipients can request additional copies of their certificate by visiting ged.com and selecting the "Grads and Transcripts" option on the main menu. This brings you to the page that will walk you through the process.