



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #34 2023-24 School Year – Week of May 6, 2024  
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

- 1. Why did the certificated staff receive backpack, large mugs, (steel) and a certificate for their years of service, Classified received a small insignificant mug and a certificate for our years of service.**

Each employee received a lapel pin, a certificate and a "swag gift". The gifts were different based on years of service; however, they were identical based on classification, certification, or management.

- 2. When will teachers who applied for the intervention teaching position for the next school year find out if they got the position? How will we fill the vacancies for the teachers in our district who are switching to that position?**

Our SUSD intervention teachers are being hired through a staggered hiring process based on current site vacancies and site candidates. This will assist our district in filling vacancies along the way. Currently interviews are taking place for sites who have no vacancies and who have internal site candidates who applied for the position. Those candidates will be notified after the interview process. Next, will be sites who have no vacancies, who have no internal site candidates and who applied. Those candidates will be notified after the interview process as well. After that the cycle will continue as we fill site vacancies and continue the hiring process.

- 3. Where can my son go to keep active during the summer months?**

Student athletes should reach out to their coaches for information on summer conditioning and approved CIF team activities. In addition, various gyms throughout Stockton have free programs for high school students. Planet Fitness has a High School Summer Pass, which begins on June 1, 2024 and goes through August 31, 2024, that gives teenagers 4-19 an opportunity to focus on their mental and physical well-being and work out for free while school is out for the summer. In addition, parents and teachers can earn one month free upon sign-up.

- 4. Why is it that the teachers have received their money but us Teacher Assistants have not?**

Receiving the retention bonus and other monetary payments occurs after we settle with each respective union. I encourage you to review the [Labor Relations website](#) for current updates related to your union.

In the past few months, we have reached several agreements with various unions under the Health Care Mitigation proposal. This means that members of these unions, STA,

CSEA 885, USA, SUSU, SPOA, SPPA, NUHW and most recently CSEA 318 will be getting or have already received the retention bonus of \$5,000 that was part of this agreement. The district cannot issue these types of payments to employees without union agreement and ratification. Once ratification happens, the district needs about 60-90 days to pay out any one-time monies or retros.

**5. Why do we need to use the Discipline Matrix? Student behavior is at its worst and students are not receiving any real consequences.**

The Student Intervention and Discipline Matrix (Discipline Matrix) is a guideline for school administrators that serves as a tool to address student behavior. The Matrix promotes student accountability within a positive atmosphere, teaches responsibility, and aids in maintaining consistency in how behavioral issues are addressed. It uses a system of ‘progressive discipline’ by suggesting various forms of student interventions that can be selected by the administrator that are suitable for the student and situation.

This allows the district to set a high expectation for student conduct while ensuring equity, appropriate support and interventions, tools for effective classroom management, and parent involvement while also minimizing the need to exclude students from classroom instruction as a means for correcting their behavior. Thus, the student receives consequences that address the source of their behavior and that progresses in conjunction with that behavior.

The Discipline Matrix is a guideline intended to hold students accountable while ensuring equity, however not all circumstances may fall neatly within the parameters. Therefore, an administrator who recommends discipline different than what is recommended in the Matrix may do so but must be able to articulate the reasons why to include progressive student behavior, previous student interventions, and obtain director pre-approval.

The Discipline Matrix aids in maintaining equity within our student intervention and discipline process to ensure that we provide a safe, supportive, and positive school environment conducive to learning. The matrix was required by the DOJ agreement and in addition, California Education Code 48900.5 requires districts to implement preventative measures and conflict resolution techniques. Interventions such as detention, suspension, and expulsion have been found to be ineffective and have caused students to disengage from school and should only be imposed when required by law.

The Discipline Matrix was developed to provide guidance to school sites and recommend interventions and discipline based on grade level and type of offense. Furthermore, it ensures the student faces disciplinary consequences and accountability for their actions while promoting positive behavior interventions. The various intervention alternatives to suspension encourage discipline that allow the student to remain in the school setting and address the underlying source of the behavior. Student conduct of a more serious nature that may require suspension or expulsion are also addressed in the matrix. Every behavior listed has an associated consequence. Furthermore, SUSD enforces California Education Code DUTIES OF PUPILS (EC §48908, 5 CCR §300) which supports holding students to strict accountability for their conduct.

**6. What are we doing to help undocumented students that attend our schools? What resources are we providing to them so that they are community and college ready?**

Undocumented refers to students who are not U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents of the United States, who do not hold a visa to reside in the U.S. and who have not applied for legal residency in the U.S. In many, but not all, cases the term non-citizen refers to undocumented students. On January 24, 2017, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved Resolution NO. 16-29 In Support of a Safe Haven for ALL Students and Families in the Stockton Unified School District. SUSD is committed to ensuring all students, regardless of immigration status, are prepared to graduate college, community, and career ready.

SUSD enrolls all eligible children regardless of their citizenship or immigration status and does not disclose personally identifiable student information to law enforcement, without the consent of a parent or guardian, a court order or lawful subpoena, or in the case of a health emergency. SUSD verifies undocumented students' age and residency by having flexibility in what documents or supporting papers are provided by legal guardian.

SUSD provides undocumented students with Special Education services as identified in student's IEP, extended day enrichment and tutoring, mental health services, translation, and access to credit recovery programs. In addition, undocumented students are provided individualized support to apply for college, scholarships, and financial aid. Counselors are available at all high schools and help our students apply for the Dream Act which allows undocumented students to apply for and receive institutional scholarships and state-based financial aid at California colleges and universities.

The Family Resource Center has also organized clinics for undocumented families to receive free legal aid and ask questions related to their individual cases. Furthermore, the Family Resource Center also provides basic needs such as groceries, clothing, school supplies, and transportation to homeless and foster youth undocumented students and families.

**7. When will I find out if my child is enrolled for kindergarten? I turned the completed the enrollment packet in March.**

Enrollment in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten takes place at the SUSD Admissions and Family Services Department, 1800 S. Sutter St. or through the online application portal [https://ca-susd-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2\\_Login.aspx](https://ca-susd-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx).

When a completed kindergarten application is submitted, a receipt is provided to the family and enrollment is confirmed. In the event that a family is asking for an Interdistrict Transfer (IDA) to enroll in Stockton Unified, the parent will complete an enrollment packet and will be contacted by the Admission and Family Services Department to finalize enrollment after the IDA has been approved.

If you have any questions about enrollment, please reach out to the Admissions and Family Services Department located at 1800 S. Sutter Street or call 209-933-7028.

**8. Hello, where can i sign up my child for the after-school program?**

The Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) after school registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on May 20, 2024. After that date, families can register either online through the [ELOP website](#) or in person with the ELOP Site Facilitator.

**9. Hi, I had registered for the summer institute at UOP but I still have not gotten an email back with the code or any information and I was wondering if I could get it or what I can do. Thank you**

Please check your registration status for the University of the Pacific (UOP) Summer Residency through the email sent to the parent's/guardian's email and ensure that you have completed all necessary steps for registration. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your registration status, please reach out to your Principal and the University of the Pacific administration as soon as possible.

Director: Dr. Balint Sztaray  
Program Manager: Faith Keith  
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**10. How many shade structures is each school site receiving? When will they be in?**

The majority of the 55 sites are receiving two shade structures. Each site was able to determine the locations that best fit their needs. We plan on having the shade structures installed by the start of next school year.