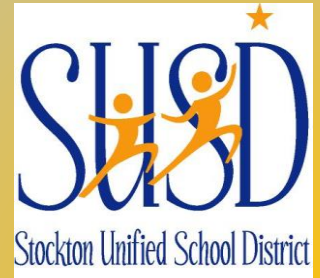




# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #15 2023-24 School Year – Week of December 3, 2023

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

- 1. I know a music teacher in Lodi that has been utilizing the money her school received in various ways. I wanted to know if SUSD schools have gotten their money. If not, when should we expect to be getting those funds and how much will each school be getting? I have many more questions regarding this proposition, but thought I'd keep it simple right now.**

We are encouraged by the additional resources that we will receive to support the arts in all of our schools. According to the CDE, Prop 28 funding will not be sent to the schools until February 2024. However, districts have received funding through an Arts and Music Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant that can currently be used in planning for Prop 28. At the last board meeting, SUSD approved a spending plan regarding the designated Arts portion of this grant. This plan included purchases that would allow SUSD to be prepared for Prop 28 implementation. Over the next two months, Cindy Wildman and her Arts Team will be meeting with Principals to assist in planning for Prop. 28 implementation at their site.

- 2. You mentioned in your weekly message that you sent a link to the Superintendent Student Advisory. I cannot find the email. Where can I get the link?**

I am encouraged by the large response that I have received. We already have over 110 applications from all high schools. Students have until Friday, December 15, 2023 to submit their application. Students can locate it on my Superintendent page of the District website. Here is the link for the Superintendent Student Advisory: <https://www.stocktonusd.net/StudentAdvisory>

- 3. I got the Transportation survey on Tuesday. What is the purpose of sending out the survey? What are you going to do with the responses?**

The Transportation Department is sending out the surveys to gauge where we stand with the students and parents in the community, to better understand the needs of our families, and to determine how we can improve our services to the population of students we serve. With the responses we are measuring what the immediate priorities are that need attention and we are co-creating our goals and collective commitments for the staff to adhere to so that we are a more united team for the district. Here are the links to the surveys for those who wish to participate:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerMqS4dA2\\_PFBofLUB4WDngJIUMbUiTHrmbDX3onNq0i6EBg/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSerMqS4dA2_PFBofLUB4WDngJIUMbUiTHrmbDX3onNq0i6EBg/viewform?usp=sharing) – Students and  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgRkfjyR\\_NP31TVQt7qexcTWn7Ndz42qs\\_tX\\_i68uSIP066TQ/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgRkfjyR_NP31TVQt7qexcTWn7Ndz42qs_tX_i68uSIP066TQ/viewform?usp=sharing) – Parents

**4. I was wondering why winter break vacations got changed this year from the 25th to the 5<sup>th</sup>? Can it be changed to the 18th to the 29<sup>th</sup>? If this could get changed for future years since those days family comes to visit or many people go on vacation?**

We recognize that it can be a challenge for our families and staff to go on winter break so close to a holiday. The instructional calendar is a collaborative effort which is negotiated with administration, staff and parents. As we mutually agree upon an instructional calendar for multiple years, it cannot be changed for this year. This year due to the holiday landing on a Monday, we have school until Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following school years are better; in 2024-2025, our last day of school before break will be Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and in 2025-2026, our last day of school before break will be Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. You can find this year's calendar and the upcoming year's calendar at this [link](#).

**5. I am a student at Merlo Institute and need a work permit. How do I obtain one?**

Work permits may be acquired at SUSD's comprehensive high schools through the Work Experience Teachers, while students at specialty sites may have their work permits issued through the CTE department located at the district office. You may learn more about the process of applying for a work permit [here](#).

Students enrolled in general Work Experience class as well as Career Technical Education Work Experience (Internships), have been affected by the passage of legislation surrounding students enrolled in these programs. AB130 created a tough scenario as it required the business hosting intern and general work experience students to have every employee fingerprinted. With most businesses unwilling to sign off on this, most internship and work experience opportunities were shut down this year and has reflected a statewide problem. Ed Code has since been amended through SB531, passed in October, to now only require one supervisor at the partnering business to be fingerprinted. It also requires district staff to visit the worksite every three weeks, and a signature for parental approval of the assignment.

While SUSD is working to implement new training agreements that will allow our students to safely and legally utilize the benefits of work experience, students are still allowed to acquire a work permit. This will allow them to be employed but does not enroll them in a district course offering in which student's require district oversight.

**6. Why are some staff receiving the Catapult training link, and I still do not have my training link?**

You may not have received the Catapult training link because Catapult is rolling out the training in three phases: Zero, One, and Two. Phase Zero was for the district team and has been completed. Phase One is currently underway for the school site safety teams and staff. The phases are assigned alphabetically. Phase one is school sites A-N. Phase two starts January 15th for school sites O-Z. You will receive a Catapult link when your training Phase opens. If you're on the Phase One safety team and have not received a link, don't hesitate to contact Catapult at [support@catapultems.com](mailto:support@catapultems.com). or for any other questions.

**7. I am itinerant staff that goes to almost all of the schools. Can I have access to all the sites through Catapult? How do I get that?**

The district student information system (SIS) should capture all the itinerant staff's assigned site locations. However, if you require additional sites outside the student information system, please contact Emergency Services, who can add you to other sites.

**8. I saw someone dumping furniture in the empty lot near my son's school. Who can I call to report them? It makes the school look horrible.**

If you see illegal dumping, we encourage you to concern your personal safety first and not confront the people who are illegally dumping. If it is safe to do so, you can take pictures or video of the vehicle's license plate and the people who are illegally dumping. You should report it to law enforcement immediately at 209-468-4400. You can download the My San Joaquin App and follow the steps to report the issue. You can also go on their website at [sjgov.org/departments/pwk/request](http://sjgov.org/departments/pwk/request).

**9. Were the Adult Ed teachers included to be recipients of the \$250 to purchase materials/ supplies?**

Yes, all TK-12 grade teachers and Adult Education teachers can access the \$250.00 to purchase classroom materials and supplies.

**10. My colleague was able to attend the Right to Read screening at Edison. I was not able to go but heard it would be great for staff and our community. Are there going to be more opportunities to attend?**

There will be two community screenings with one screening at Franklin High School on January 24<sup>th</sup> and one screening at Chavez High School on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We will make the film available to all K-8 schools for their literacy nights.