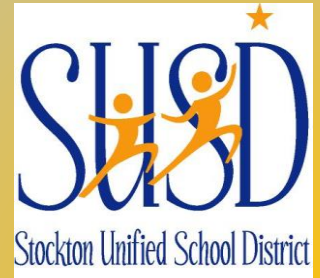




# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #20 2023-24 School Year – Week of January 22, 2024

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

**1. Good morning! I received a text message from a New York area code claiming to be you. Did you send this?**

This communication did not come from me. This is the reason for the email that I sent out to staff on January 17, 2024. Over the last week, there have been reported instances of staff members and now community members receiving text messages from out-of-state area codes, claiming to be from Dr. Michelle Rodriguez. These messages are soliciting money for staff incentives.

Please be advised that these messages are not legitimate, and we urge you not to engage with the sender or fulfill any requests for money. This is not a protocol that I or any authorized personnel would follow to request funds. In the interest of maintaining security and confidentiality, we recommend that you do not respond to these messages or provide any personal or financial information. If you receive such a message, please report it to the Department of Public Safety immediately.

**2. I received the fake text that you emailed us about. How do I send that information to DPS?**

People should email Chief Franco directly at [mfranco@stocktonusd.net](mailto:mfranco@stocktonusd.net) with a screenshot of the communication. She is working with her officers at the Department of Public Safety on the issue.

**3. How do we apply for a pay out? I never used a single hr. of any of the COVID leave.**

We have nine unions, and each union negotiated differently, some MOUs did sunset when the State of Emergency was lifted; however, others remain active. If you have a balance in AESOP you may request a payout by completing the COVID-19 MOU Comp Payout form by clicking [here](#). See the instructions below.

### Forms

Once you click any of the below short cuts, a new tab will open and prompt you to login. Login as shown below (username is SUSD email and password is computer/email password).

The screenshot shows a login form with the following elements:

- Username:** A text input field containing the email address `sbibi@stocktonusd.net`.
- Password:** A password input field with masked characters (dots). A red callout box points to this field with the text "Password is computer/email password".
- Forgot password?:** A link below the password field.
- Sign In:** A green button at the bottom of the form.

- 4. I am an employee here and I have been disheartened lately on how many students do not attend regularly. I know that it affects their overall learning, and I wonder why its not being enforced more. I thought it was a state law that students 6-18 had to be enrolled in school? why are parents not being held accountable for their children not attending. Im worried about the future with these kids missing so much school- how can they graduate, college? hold a stable job that will pay their daily living wages? I Love working with the students of SUSD and i know that there are a TON of us in the district that want only the best for them, but I am not seeing the change that needs to be done, done.**

Over the last several months, we have restructured and merged the Admissions and Family Services Department and Child Welfare and Attendance Departments to streamline efforts to ensure that we are reducing our rate of chronically absent students. We are fortunate to have 40 Child Welfare and Attendance staff dedicated to addressing the district's chronic absenteeism and student absences district wide. In addition, at the site level, we have a CWA social services case manager (SSCM), a Truancy Outreach Specialist (TOS) at the elementary level, a Social Work Assistant (SWA) at the high school level and a CWA high school counselor at each of the comprehensive high schools who work daily with the school site teams of counselors, administrators, teachers, and staff at all of our 54 schools.

Each school's site administrator(s) leads the site's intervention team addressing chronic absenteeism at their school. The case manager assigned to each school prioritizes the weekly home visits to individual students' homes. At the elementary level, mitigation team meetings are held at every school monthly with the intervention teams and individual families. At the high school level, a monthly SARB board meeting is held. Each comprehensive high school is given a half day and chooses up to 12 students and families to assign/who can be sent to the SARB board monthly. We are now collaborating with the District Attorney's Office to further support our efforts on the most critical cases.

In addition, the CWA and Admissions Department is spearheading the return of two Saturday schools in February to early April 2024 to recoup up to 5 days of attendance per student according to Calif. Ed Code for unexcused and excused student absences. The district is setting up the parameters, structure, and funding of the two Saturday schools that will be carried out by 4 elementary schools and 1 high school on February 24<sup>th</sup> in a pilot. All 54 schools will participate in the second Saturday school on March 9<sup>th</sup> or April 6<sup>th</sup>, avoiding a Saturday connected to spring break.

- 5. Can we have a four-day weekend like some of the districts for the two Presidents holidays in February? Our family would like that better than the two Monday holidays.** The instructional calendar has already been set by the Calendar Committee for the next several years. For this year, we must observe the holidays on Monday, February 12 and Monday, February 19. As we are creating the calendar for the 2026-2027 school year, we can take that feedback to the Calendar Committee.
- 6. Hi, I am an employee with SUSD for over twenty years. In all the times of obtaining our TB tests, the district has provided us a location where we can go to get the test done. However, at my last TB (Nov. 2023), I was told to make an appointment with my personal doctor and use my personal insurance to pay for the test. Is the district not covering this cost anymore? I have spoken to two different individuals through the**

**contact number that was listed on my renewal letter, and they both have said to go through my personal doctor.**

**Also, on the questionnaire that we answer to determine if we needed to take a TB test or not, I have always passed the questions until the last one, which is "Were you born in the United States?". I have always had to get a TB test since I was not born here. However, I was raised in the states and have always tested negative. I came here when I was not even five years old. I feel this questionnaire is a form of discrimination. People like us who were not born here will always have to get a TB test, whereas others can just answer the questionnaire and be done with the process every four years. Will there be exceptions for us who have always tested negative? Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions.**

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M. tuberculosis). The bacteria, or germ, usually attack the lungs. TB germs can attack any part of the body, such as the kidney, spine, or brain. People with TB can be treated if they seek timely medical help.

SUSD must abide by state law. California law requires that school staff and volunteers working with children and community college students be free of infectious tuberculosis (TB) disease.

Employees are referred to their primary care physician and must utilize their own private insurance for the cost of the TB test and any other costs associated with a positive test. SUSD is currently providing employees and volunteers with a list of potential local cost-effective options. SUSD has no control over the eligibility requirements or capacity to serve individuals of those health agencies listed.

The World Health Organization and California Public Health Department determine the TB test requirements. These organizations require school districts to refer all foreign-born individuals to take the TB test. This means any person born outside the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, or a country in Western or Northern Europe must take the TB test. The TB test must be taken for any "yes" response to any of the four questions.

- 7. Shortly after the school year started, I was told that Kindergarten, second, sixth and eighth grades were supposed to get new Chromebooks for our classrooms. This has not happened yet. I have put in requests for the broken Chromebooks to be repaired last school year, but that has never happened. When the Chromebook cart was brand new, we had Chromebooks taken to support distance learning. Those were never replaced. Teachers are feeling the pinch of this technology shortage because we have no extras to give students when Chromebooks are working. When are Chromebooks expected to arrive to those classrooms so students can use them?**

At the beginning of the year, the district ordered Chromebooks. Due to national technology supply chain issues, those Chromebooks have just recently arrived. District technology staff

will work with the Purchasing Department and Site Tech point staff to replenish. Given time for preparation, District Technology staff expect to get these into the classrooms within a month or so. District technology staff and Site Point Tech Staff will prioritize per need according to inventory but will check kindergarten, second, sixth and eighth grades. Please feel free to call technology and innovation services at (209) 933-7090 if you have any questions.

**8. I am glad that there is finally a way to submit a question or concern to Human Resources. Can you please provide the link?**

The Human Resources Department in collaboration with the Payroll Department created a Help Ticket system as an additional option for SUSD employees to communicate with our staff. As an employee submitting a Help Ticket, you can expect to be notified via email from [Forms@stocktonusd.net](mailto:Forms@stocktonusd.net) of receipt and completion of the request.

In addition, both departments added Frequently Asked Questions to their respective web pages, if you are unable to find an answer to your question, the link to the Help Ticket System has been added for your convenience.

- Links to [HR Help Ticket](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Links to [Payroll Help Ticket](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**9. Hello, I had a student recently ask if we are still providing wifi boxes as it's hard to complete her homework at home. Can you share if this resource is still available or make suggestions for low-cost service?**

Yes, the district does provide mobile hotspots for students who need internet access. Students can check them out from their library or front office.

**10. Board Policy CSBA Policy BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements and the Rigorous Graduation Requirements Implementation timeline do not seem to match up. Furthermore, on high school transcripts, the Graduation Requirements - Credit Summary does not match either of the above. Where do we obtain a clear understanding of the different graduation requirements for each grade level from 2024 through the last year of this implementation?**

The Stockton Unified School Board approved Board Policy CSBA Policy BP 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements. The policy increases expectations and aligns high school graduation and the UC A-G requirements to ensure that all students graduate college-, career-, and community-ready. The revised requirements ensure all students take college preparatory courses and have the option of applying to a wide range of colleges and universities or pursuing career interests making them prepared for the rigors of the 21st-century workplace.

We appreciate your feedback and have ensured that the website has the latest and most accurate information. To ensure transparency and accessibility, we have also updated student transcripts with the latest graduation requirements. Students and parents can review these requirements on our website or through their student's transcripts. We encourage all students,

parents, and educators to familiarize themselves with these updated graduation requirements to ensure a smooth and successful academic journey. Any questions or concerns can be addressed by reaching out to the school administration or guidance counselors.