Ask Dr. Rodriguez

Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #36 2024-25 School Year – Week of May 12, 2025
Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community.

1. **I am an employee that goes to multiple sites and offices. I have Catapult but am assigned to the district office. Can I get notice from all my sites or the whole district so that I don't walk into an unsafe situation or to know what may be happening at a site I am visiting.**

   We encourage all employees to receive CatapultEMS notifications, so they have the most up to date emergency information. It is possible to receive notifications from CatapultEMS for all SUSD sites. Please review this guide for assistance.

   What You Should Do to Ensure You Receive Notifications from SUSD's Emergency Messaging Catapult EMS:

   Verify Your Contact Information:
   - Log in to your Catapult account (www.catapultems.com or the mobile app).
   - Log in by clicking the "Continue with Microsoft" button.
   - Check your profile or contact information is accurate.

   Check Your Notification Settings:
   - Within your Catapult profile or the mobile app settings, look for options related to notifications.
   - Ensure that you have enabled notifications for text message.
   - If using the mobile app, check if you have enabled audible alerts or critical alerts, which can override silent mode.

   Install and Configure the Mobile App:
   - Download the CatapultEMS mobile app for your iOS or Android device.
   - Log in by clicking the "Continue with Microsoft" button.
   - Grant the app the necessary permissions, such as the ability to send notifications in your phone's settings.
   - Ensure the app is running in the background (and is not being restricted by your phone's battery-saving settings) to receive alerts reliably.

   Request Multiple Site Access by Submitting a Helpdesk ticket:
   - Submit a Helpdesk ticket at: https://helpdesk.stocktonusd.net/
   - Explain your role as an employee who visits multiple sites and your need to receive safety notifications from all locations you might visit.
   - They can verify your account settings and ensure you are configured to receive the appropriate alerts.

2. **I saw that the Board approved the second set of camera installation. When will the camera system be installed and how will they make my school safer?**
   The decision to install the new, technology enhanced camera system is aimed at improving security and safety for students, staff, and visitors on campus. It will also provide a tool to monitor school premises, ensuring a safer learning environment. Phase 1 included fifteen school sites which have been rolling out the new camera system over the past year and a half. They will be largely completed around June 1, 2025. The remainder of the sites, Phase 2, were approved by the Board of Education on April 8, 2025. The equipment has already been ordered and will be received next week. Installation and full deployment across all remaining sites are expected to take next 18 months, with schools being systematically completed throughout that timeframe.

   The Alta system is a cloud-based video security platform that provides high-resolution surveillance, and advanced video analytics. The Alta system allows real-time monitoring and quick responses to potential incidents. In certain conditions, its advanced analytics help identify potential threats early and support proactive measures.

3. **Where are the new cameras going to be installed?**
   The new camera system will be installed across the entire District at all 55 schools and departments. As noted above, Phase 1 was at the first 15 sites. Phase 2 will include the remaining schools and departments noted below:

August Elementary	Centralized Enrollment	Cleveland Elementary	Commodore Skills
El Dorado Elementary	Elmwood Elementary	Flora Arca Mata Elementary	Washington Elementary
Grunsky Elementary	Hamilton Elementary	Harrison Elementary	Hazelton Elementary
Hoover Elementary	Huerta Elementary	John Adams Elementary	Kennedy Elementary
King Elementary	Kohl Elementary	Madison Elementary	McKinley Elementary
Merlo Institute of Technology	Monroe Elementary	Montezuma Elementary	Nightingale Elementary
Peyton Elementary	Police Services	Primary Years Academy	Pulliam Elementary
Rio Calaveras Elementary	Roosevelt Elementary	School for Adults	Spanos Elementary
Stockton High	Van Buren Elementary	Victory Elementary	Walton Special Center
Warehouse & Maintenance & Operations Facility	Wilson Elementary	Youth Adult Program (YAP)	

4. **When students get in a fight, am I required as a staff member to help break up the fight? I am scared of getting hurt.**
At SUSD, we are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. We recognize that ensuring safety is a shared responsibility and that maintaining a secure learning space requires preparation, awareness, and care.

California Education Code, along with our District policies, emphasizes the importance of student safety and the responsibility of staff to protect students from harm. At the same time, we value the well-being of our staff and want to ensure they are equipped with the skills and support they need to respond confidently and safely in challenging situations. Board Policy 5142 (Student Safety) prioritizes injury prevention and places responsibility on staff for student conduct and safety while students are under school supervision—whether on or off campus. Board Policy 5131 (Conduct) reinforces expectations that all employees provide appropriate supervision, intervene when needed, and help maintain a safe and orderly environment. Prohibited conduct includes any behavior—by students or others—that endangers staff or students, disrupts learning, or causes physical or emotional harm.

Intervention strategies may vary depending on the situation and can include actions such as:
- Calling for immediate assistance
- Dispersing bystanders
- Managing the surrounding environment
- Using verbal de-escalation techniques
- Physically separating students from behind (only when safe and appropriate)

When responding, we encourage you to:
- Prioritize your safety and the safety of others
- Assess the situation before intervening
- Use calm, clear, and simple communication
- Ensure any physical intervention is proportionate and necessary

To support our staff, we strongly encourage participation in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training. CPI provides valuable tools in verbal de-escalation, safety techniques, and best practices for responding to crisis situations in ways that protect everyone involved. Finally, fostering strong, positive relationships with students significantly reduces the likelihood of conflict and enhances compliance.

5. **I heard of this horrible new Tik-Tok challenge which encourages students to destroy their Chromebook. Did the District put anything out about it?**

On Wednesday, May 14, 2025, we sent the following message to families to warn them of these dangers and also the consequences of engaging in the Tik-Tok challenge:
Dear SUSD Families,

We want to make you aware there is a social media challenge where some students are being encouraged to short circuit their Chromebooks. This is extremely dangerous and could cause serious harm. We are writing this message out of care and concern for your child's safety. We urge you to talk to your children to make sure they know this is not safe and could not only lead to injuries but a large financial burden. SUSD supplies two Chromebooks to students so they could have one at home and one at school. Each Chromebook is valued at $330.00. You are responsible for paying $330.00 if your child's device is destroyed from this challenge. Students across the nation have been suspended, expelled and have faced criminal charges. Safety is of utmost importance for our students, teachers and staff. Thank you for joining us in keeping students safe.

6. **I keep seeing different dates. When is Weber's graduation? May 29 or May 30?**
Weber graduation will be in May 29 at 3:30. Here is a list of graduations. This is posted on our website as well.

7. **Hello I would like to join the adult school for high school diploma or english language course but i found on your website that registration is closed for all**

programs what should i do and when it will be open plz guide me about this thankyou.
Registration for the 2025–26 school year at Stockton School for Adults will begin on June 30, 2025. English as a Second Language (ESL) registration will take place in person at the ESL office at the School for Adults during regular business hours. Registration for all other programs will be available both online and in person at the front office. ESL registration is done in person so our staff can do a quick listening and speaking assessment to help facilitate appropriate placement. We will add a notification on our homepage to inform the community when our registration will commence.

8. **Are you going to continue to do your FAQs during the summer?**
My final Ask Dr. Rodriguez FAQs for this school year will be shared next week. While the weekly FAQs will pause for the summer, I will continue to respond to questions submitted through Let's Talk and encourage you to stay connected that way.

9. **Why haven't you celebrated the classified staff yet?**
While many of our classified staff have already received their service awards and tote bags, the official Classified Employee Recognition Week is May 18–22. We will be celebrating and honoring our incredible classified team next week during that designated time.

10. **What is new Perks Spot for employees?**
SUSD is excited to introduce the new PerkSpot–Newfront Discount Program for all employees. This program offers exclusive discounts on hundreds of merchants, including tickets and entertainment, travel deals, health and wellness, and a wide range of other products and services.

To get started, visit https://newfront.perkspot.com/, click "Sign Up," fill in the requested information, create a password, and register your account. Once you are in, you can explore over 25 categories of perks and use the local map feature to find deals near you. If you have questions, a Customer Support Specialist is available via the chat box for live assistance.

For convenience on the go, download the PerkSpot Mobile App from the App Store or Google Play to access your exclusive offers anytime. Do not forget to subscribe to weekly perks to ensure you never miss a deal.