



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #19 2024-25 School Year – Week of January 6, 2025

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

### 1. What is the Specialty School Fair I keep hearing about? Is that the same as CTE?

The Specialty School Fair is an event designed to showcase our district's 19 specialty school programs, which include a wide range of offerings such as automotive, agriculture, healthcare, music, and more. It's separate from CTE but complements it by highlighting unique educational pathways and opportunities available to students.

This year, the Specialty School Fair will be held alongside the STEAM Fair at the same location, making it convenient for students, staff, and families to explore both events. There will be demonstrations, staff available to answer questions, and on-site registration for programs.

Join us on January 16th at Chavez High School's Multi-Purpose Gym from 5:30 to 7:00 PM for this exciting opportunity!

**SPECIALTY SCHOOLS FAIR**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Participating Schools**

- Commodore
- Fremont
- Stagg
- Hong Kingston
- Kohl
- Franklin
- McKinley
- Nightingale
- Weber
- PYA
- Pittman
- Chavez
- Merlo
- HCA
- Jane Frederick
- PLA
- SECA
- Stockton High
- Edison

CHAVEZ HIGH SCHOOL, MULTIPURPOSE GYM  
2929 WINDFLOWER LN, STOCKTON

The specialty school fair will be a memorable and productive event for our students, families, staff, and school sites that attend and participate. This is a unique opportunity to highlight, celebrate, and share the unique and empowering opportunities that our specialty schools have to offer our students and community.

2. **My son is preparing his project for the STEAM Fair. What will be happening during that event?**

Your son will join over 190 SUSD students showcasing and competing in the STEAM Fair, an exciting celebration of innovation and creativity. The event will feature science, engineering, and invention projects from students across the district. Attendees will also enjoy interactive "make-and-take" science activities and have the unique opportunity to explore the wonders of the StarLab Planetarium. It promises to be an inspiring and engaging experience for all!



3. **How do I register for the STA Professional Development Day? What will be offered?**

Registration for January 24, 2025 is now open with over 100 different sessions, including renowned keynote speakers:

Dr. India White – [See her welcome here](#)

Dr. Sean Nank – [Speaking to integrating student passion into curriculum](#)

Some professional learning is better served in short bursts of information. For each of our teacher groups, some of our afternoon sessions will be offered in two-80 minute sessions during our 12:00pm-3:00pm time block. While there will still be 3-hour offerings, we recognize that some content, as well as some learners, benefit from smaller doses of time.

Look for these sessions identified in the afternoon tabs as:

“Mini-Session A” for a 12:00pm -1:20pm session and then register for

“Mini-Session B” for a 1:40pm -3:00pm session to end the day.

Please use the [Curriculum & Professional Development Department’s website](#) to browse the offerings for the two days. Watch this quick 2-minute video to help you register: <https://app.screencastify.com/v3/watch/HfkpNuEZCmHPJQoFNQEK>

**4. Do all equity team members need to attend the Equity Kick-off on January 24<sup>th</sup>, considering it is also a PD day?**

We understand that some members may have conflicting commitments, but we strongly encourage as many team members as possible to attend. This event is a crucial step in our equity journey, and your participation is essential in shaping the future of this important work.

**5. At the welcome back assembly you mentioned the district would be providing students with two Chromebooks, one that stays at school and one that can be kept at home. I and our Math Department teachers were so excited to hear that we would be getting Chromecarts back in our classrooms to house the Chromebooks that are to remain at school. What is the timeframe for delivery?**

All Chromebooks for the district's 2-to-1 Chromebook initiative have been successfully delivered. During the most recent principals’ meeting, it was noted that principals can coordinate with the Technology and Innovation team to purchase additional Chromebook carts if needed. Most school sites already have sufficient carts to store their Chromebooks, and several have worked with Technology and Innovation to acquire additional carts as necessary. If your school site requires more Chromebook carts, please inform your principal so they can collaborate with the Technology and Innovation team to address your needs.

**6. I thought you supported Athletics, was their budget cut this year?**

Athletics play a vital role in fostering students' passions, interests, and talents while promoting their overall success. I recognize the profound impact that sports have on enhancing school engagement, improving attendance, and cultivating essential life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Since my arrival, the athletic budget has increased annually to meet the need of the program, reflecting my commitment to supporting the development of the Whole Child and ensuring they have the resources to thrive both on and off the field.

Fiscal Year	Budget Amount	Increase
2021-22	\$1,802,851.00	
2022-23	\$2,158,946.00	\$356,095.00
2023-24	\$2,670,565.00	\$511,619.00
2024-25	\$3,210,000.00	\$539,435.00

**7. It is a huge inconvenience to not have school on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> when we just came back to school from winter break. What is a working parent supposed to do?**

Our Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) will not operate on January 24<sup>th</sup> or other SUSD staff professional development days. On these days, our ELOP paraprofessional staff, like teachers, participate in vital training sessions to enhance their skills to better serve our students. We appreciate your understanding and support as we invest in professional development to ensure high-quality programming for our students. Here are some suggested organizations that may offer student programs on this day.

- Parks and recreation agency- (209) 953-8800
- San Joaquin County Human Service Agency- (209) 468-1000
- Lodi Parks and Recreation- (209) 333-6742

**8. Can you provide me a listing of all of the days off for the students in the next month or so that will allow me to plan?**

SUSD students will not have school on the following days in the next month:

- Monday, January 20, 2025—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- Friday, January 24, 2025—Professional Development Day for SUSD Staff
- Monday, February 10, 2025—Lincoln’s Birthday
- Monday, February 17, 2025—Presidents’ Day

**9. Do Intervention Teachers receive the \$500 as well for supplies?**

Yes, intervention teachers are included in the list of certificated staff eligible to receive the \$500 allocation for supplies and materials. They should follow the same established process as other staff members to order their materials.

**10. Hello Dr, Rodriguez, as a parent we are curious if there is ever a plan to return our 9-12 general education students to the SUSD Yellow School bus? There are ongoing safety concerns with our students riding the RTD city bus to and from school.**

**Thank you.**

Stockton Unified School District is committed to enhancing student safety, equity, and reliability by introducing district-operated transportation for general education students at the four comprehensive high schools and Jane Frederick High School. This proposed change aims to improve attendance, ensure safer commutes, and increase access to education. By providing dedicated school buses, SUSD reinforces its mission to remove barriers and support academic success.

To help us plan for this transition from public transit to district-operated transportation, please complete this form <https://forms.gle/B2ck3Yx5cSK24rWD6> by Monday, January 20, 2025 to indicate whether your student will utilize SUSD school bus services for travel to and from school. Your input is vital to our implementation process.