



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #23 2024-25 School Year – Week of February 3, 2025

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

**1. When is the next Health and Resource Fair planned? Could it be during the day?**

The next Health and Wellness Resource Fair is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the School for Adults (1525 Pacific Ave, Stockton, CA). This event is being hosted in partnership with El Concilio and promises to build on the success of our first fair, which saw an excellent turnout of approximately 300 families benefiting from the support of 10 community partners. Additionally, we are planning a third fair for early March to further expand access to these valuable resources.

**2. Will you be providing staff with directions on what to do if ICE comes on campus?**

In this week's weekly message (February 7, 2025), staff should have received explicit directions on the steps to take if ICE comes on campus. Please review the information provided to ensure everyone is prepared and informed about our procedures in such a situation.

**3. Do sites have to print out their own red cards for families or can Reprographics Department do it?**

Sites do not have to print out their own red cards for families. Last week, the Reprographics Department distributed the initial batch of 50 red cards to all sites. Additionally, we are scheduled to deliver a second set of 50 red cards to each site next week. This will ensure that there is an adequate supply available for staff, families, and the community.

**4. Does the Safe Haven extend to our parking lots?**

SUSD extends its safe haven protections for our communities to its parking lots and will not enforce or assist in immigration enforcement. However, due to the fact that our parking lots are a public areas Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) agents have the same level of access to public areas as our parents do. This does not mean that ICE has the authority to stop, question, or arrest just anyone who is in a public area. ICE agents must have a warrant or reasonable suspicion that a person does not have legal status in the United States. An ICE Administrative warrant allows agents the ability to stop, question, and arrest people in public areas. Reasonable suspicion can be established through questioning of individuals regarding their immigration status. As a reminder,

non-citizens have the same constitutional rights as U.S. citizens, thus there is no requirement to speak to an ICE agent. The Immigration Legal Resource Center recommends that any individual stopped by ICE remain silent and not authorize any permissions to search.

Further, ICE agents do not have general authority to conduct traffic stops. An agent must have a particularized basis to suspect a federal crime or immigration violation have occurred. If you are stopped remember to ask if you are free to leave. If they state no, remain silent and request to speak with an attorney immediately.

A link to the Immigration Legal Resource Center can be found on our district website at <https://www.stocktonusd.net/>. The district has also distributed red cards to each school site that list an individual's rights and can be directly handed to an ICE agent. If you do not have a red card, please ask for one at your home school's front office.

**5. I am concerned about the Dept of Education being dismantled by the current President. Is there any positive notes you could ease my concern about Title 1 and Special Ed funds?**

We understand the uncertainty surrounding recent developments regarding the potential changes to the U.S. Department of Education and want to assure our community that our commitment to providing crucial services to our students remains steadfast.

While there are discussions and legislative proposals to restructure the Department, including redistributing functions to other agencies, it is important to note that these are early stages and would require significant Congressional action for implementation. The future of funding streams such as Title I, Special Education, Career Tech, and others is indeed a critical focus of upcoming budget deliberations in Congress.

We are closely monitoring these developments and advocating for the continued support of all programs that benefit our students. Regardless of any potential changes at the federal level, our dedication to leveraging Title I and other categorical funds to enhance educational opportunities remains unchanged.

**6. I received my W-2, my income seems too high?**

Last year the District successfully settled with each bargaining unit. The settlements included on-schedule increases, off schedule payments, retention bonus, one-time and retro payments. All settlements are included in your taxable wages on your W-2. The list of settlements that were paid in calendar year 2024 were:

*4% 22/23 off salary schedule*

*4% on- schedule for 22/23*

*3% on-schedule for 23/24*

4% on- schedule for 22/23 retro on base only  
3% on-schedule for 23/24 retro on all pay  
\$7,500.00 one-time payment  
\$5,000.00 retention bonus

Other taxable wages include additional hours, vacation payout and stipends. The Payroll Department website includes a helpful guide on how to read your W-2. [Payroll Department / Payroll Documents](#). If you have any questions regarding your W-2, please contact the Payroll Department.

## 7. How can I access my W-2 on the website?

W-2s were mailed to your address on file. In addition, they are available on the Employee Portal. Instructions on how to access and the link for Employee Portal can be found on the Payroll Department website.

The screenshot shows the Payroll Department website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with the following items: Department Homepage, Certificated - Check Stub Description, Classified - Check Stub Description, Payroll FAQs, Employee Portal (highlighted in yellow), Monthly Payroll Update, Reminders, Payroll Documents, and Payroll Help Ticket. The main content area is titled "Welcome to Payroll" and includes a note: "The proper procedure to report a Payroll problem is that the EMPLOYEE must call the Payroll Help Desk or submit a Help Ticket". Below this is a "Payroll Reminder" section with a bulleted list of updates: "NEW 2024/2025 Payroll Schedule", "ELOP TIMESHEET GUIDELINES", "NEW EMPLOYEE PORTAL: Please submit an HR Help Ticket for assistance. If you are unable to submit tickets due to email, please contact Technology and Innovations Dept. 209-933-7090 x4357 and request access to work email.", and a note about Premier Credit Union banking clients switching to Self-Help Bank as of June 3rd, 2024. On the right side, there is a "Contacts" section listing Tammy Reynolds, Payroll Operations Manager, with her phone and fax numbers, the Payroll Help Desk contact information, and office hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Directions on resetting your password can also be found on Portal Instructions.

## 8. What is SUSD doing for Black History Month?

In honor of Black History Month, Stockton Unified School District is committed to celebrating the rich contributions and profound struggles of African Americans. Throughout February, our schools will engage students with a variety of activities and lessons highlighting local and national figures who have shaped American history. Teacher guides from Discovery Education have been integrated for Grades K-8, while high school materials complement our existing Houghton Mifflin curriculum. We also encourage our students and families to join community events and visual performances across the district, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of African American heritage.

**9. Is the 2 to 1 Chromebook initiative for both K-8 schools and high schools?**

All SUSD schools are a part of the 2-to-1 Chromebook initiative including both K-8 and High Schools. All school sites should have received their deliveries. The number of Chromebooks delivered depended on the These numbers were verified around September of this year.

**10. Hello, Dr. Rodriguez, I know the district is in the process of installing the Vape detectors at the High Schools. What is the time frame for installation?**

The vape detectors will be installed at Cesar Chavez High School, Edison High School, Stagg High School, and Franklin High School over the weekend of February 15, 2025. Installation at additional specialty and alternative high schools will follow.