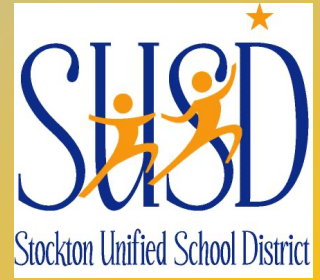




Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #30 2023-24 School Year – Week of April 8, 2024

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

1. How do I contact animal control if I see a concern with dogs on our way to school?

If you have concerns about reporting animal bites, injured or aggressive animals, or needing a service officer in Stockton, call Animal Services and Shelter at (209) 937-7445. To report animal bites, injured or aggressive animals, or to request a service officer outside the city of Stockton but within San Joaquin County's jurisdiction, call San Joaquin County Animal Services at (209) 953-6070.

2. I am a parent of children who attend two different schools within the district. One of the schools has a visitor pass system in place, while the other does not. Why has the second school not implemented this system yet?

The school sites have been waiting for the Visitor Management guidelines, which were approved by the Board of Trustees on March 25, 2024. While some sites have already been using the system, it was optional until the new guidelines were officially approved. The Visitor Management guidelines and system should now be in use at all 55 SUSD sites. If you have any further concerns, do not hesitate to get in touch with the Director of Emergency Service, Marcus Omlin, at 209 933-7070, Ext. 2702.

3. I am CSA working at an SUSD campus. My concern for safety is the lack of keys giving to our noon duties. They are here on campus to keep our students safe, but they are not able to get through doors in case of an emergency. I've been told it's a money reason why they are not given keys. I was also told it's too much of a liability if the keys get lost but none of those reason should weigh out the safety for our students on campus. I believe anyone who is permanent employee at a designated site should have a set of keys let alone someone whose job is safety which would be Noon Duty, CSA and CSM.

The Stockton Unified School District's Key Control Policy permits employees such as Noon-Duty, Campus Security Monitors, and Campus Safety Assistants to possess Site Gate Keys. In addition, CSMs and CSAs in the District may receive a Classroom Master Key. To maintain security, keys must be distributed at a minimum level at each site. In case of an emergency, such as an active shooter/threat, staff members should follow the emergency guidelines for active shooter/active threat and either secure themselves in the classrooms or evacuate off-campus. The gate keys would play a crucial role in allowing staff members to exit and evacuate. Please connect with your site leadership if you are a Noon-Duty, CSM or CSA to request any and needed authorized keys.

- 4. Why does the district only offer trainings for CSA and CSM during our break time never during work hours? I understand we are needed during school hours but that is when an Admin should cover to support a sub or fill in if a sub does not show. Consistent training to keep our campus safe is very much needed. At the same time it is unfair for us to have to decide if we want to give up a day or so during our break to get trained.**

We agree that training should be offered during school hours; however, currently, the District needs a substitute pool to cover vacancies at the school sites for CSAs and CSMs to attend training. It is essential to the safety of the campus that we have CSAs and CSMs present during school hours, and the District did not want to limit training opportunities due to lack of coverage. We are working diligently to build the substitute pool backup to offer training during school hours, but we still want to be able to provide training opportunities while we make that happen. The training opportunities offered outside school hours are provided on an overtime basis.

- 5. I see that you have signs everywhere for these job fairs. How many people can you hire at one of them?**

Last weekend, over 250 people attended the job fair event. Many classified substitutes and permanent candidates interviewed and will be contacted this week with next steps. We hired 12 teachers and 1 SLP that day. We typically hire between 12-16 teachers, with around 10 sub teachers, at each event. We do not hire on the spot for any other positions due to collective agreements. Our next job fair event is Saturday, May 4, 202 from 9:00am-12:00 noon at Chavez High School.

- 6. What to do with the glasses now that the eclipse is over?**

Our Science Curriculum Specialist found a non-profit organization that will ship them for free to South America so they can use them in October for the eclipse that will be viewable to them.

- 7. How many electric buses do we have now? Does it save the District money to have electric buses?**

We currently have 14 electric buses in our yard and by July 1 we will have 34. It is less expensive to have electric buses because we use a charge management system to charge our buses during off peak hours when the electricity is cheaper to get from the utility. Additionally, electricity overall is less expensive than diesel fuel. But, more importantly, reduced emissions are better for the health of our students, our schools, and our community.

- 8. I was just trying to hold an IEP today that requires translation. As you are probably aware we have an extremely high number of Spanish speaking students with IEPs. The District only uses one outside agency to cover if the translation and Interpretation office doesn't have enough translators. This morning, I was told that there will not be translator available and my meeting will need to be rescheduled. This will make me out of compliance with Federal Law. The SPED department in this District is actually out of compliance on many levels that are negatively**

impacting students. In a district this size, with the high number of Spanish Speaking SPED families, why are we only using one outside agency for translation when there are more than a dozen translation services in our area? What is/Do you have a plan to address this?

Our Language Development Office (LDO) does deploy several translators on a daily basis to school sites and works with third party companies like EXCEL to provide additional support to help fill interpretation needs when district translators are not available. We do get some cancellations from time to time, and we quickly try to fill the need when that occurs. When third party companies, like EXCEL, cancel a meeting, sites can call LDO to see if a translator is available. LDO will work with the Special Education Department to ensure that our needs are being met through our own staff and EXCEL. If not, we will look at additional third parties to help support translation services for our families.

9. Will there be a Staff Kick-off again next year? Staff need to know so they can plan.

We will continue with tradition and hold the All-Staff Kick-off at the same time as last year, which is the Monday of the week that we start the new school year. For the 2024-2025 school year, the Kick-off will be on Monday, July 29, 2024, from 8:30-10:30am at UOP Alex Spanos Center. We will have fantastic student performances and participation as well as generous donated prizes.

STAFF KICK-OFF

For the 2024-25 School Year

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
AT THE UOP ALEX SPANOS CENTER



Kick-off Presentation by Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rodriguez.

Donated Prizes and your chance to win tickets to **Disneyland, Dell'Oso Family Farms, Six Flags** and more.

Performances by SUSD Mariachi Teachers, Chavez Jazz Band, Ballet Folklorico and more..

Coffee and water will be served.



Doors open at 7:30 am.
We hope to see you there. Attendance is required
for staff scheduled to work. If staff is not
scheduled, attendance is optional with pay.
Attendance will be taken.



10. I'm trying to register my son for summer camp but I do not see where to register on the site?

You will be able to register as of April 15, 2024 at the following link:

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/Page/17730>. Below is information on the summer program:

ELOP is a one-of-a-kind summer program carefully crafted to inspire, engage, and empower students from TK (Transitional Kindergarten) to 8th grade. Whether your child is a budding scientist, an aspiring artist, a future engineer, a dynamic athlete, a phenomenal cook, or simply looking to have a blast during the summer break, ELOP has something special for everyone!

What Makes ELOP Unique?

1. **Diverse Enrichment Activities:** Our program offers a wide array of hands-on activities, from science experiments and coding challenges to creative arts and outdoor adventures. Each day brings new opportunities to explore and learn.
2. **Curriculum Aligned Learning:** ELOP integrates teacher-led age-appropriate academic components into the program, ensuring that your child's summer is both fun and educational. We believe in promoting a love for learning!
3. **Experienced Educators:** Our team of passionate and qualified educators are dedicated to nurturing your child's intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Your child will be guided by caring professionals who prioritize their well-being.
4. **Building Lifelong Friendships:** ELOP encourages teamwork and social interaction through group activities, games, and collaborative projects. Your child will make friends and create memories that last a lifetime.
5. **Safe and Supportive Environment:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of your child. Our program is hosted in a secure environment where every child can thrive and be themselves.

Program Details

- Dates: June 3, 2024 - June 28, 2024
- Hours: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
- Location: Participating TK-8 sites. Sites shown at the time of registration
- Grade Levels: TK-8