



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #4 2023-24 School Year – Week of September 4, 2023

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

- 1. I need to sign my son up for Fall Break. Is there still room and where do I sign up?**  
You can still sign up for the Fall Break Day Camp that will take place October 9-13 from 8am-5pm. You can register at your school site or through the Expanded Learning [webpage](#).
- 2. At today's townhall you mentioned that sites would receive the access control devices. Will that be at all sites? Can you give me some more information on what that is?**  
All SUSD sites and departments will have the new access control system. We will implement them in a four-phase process with each phase taking four weeks to install. The systems will allow staff to interact with the visitor through a video and audio intercom system and provide access, when deemed safe, to the site through specific points of entry. You can think of it similar to the Ring system that some people have in their homes. In some cases, additional fencing will be needed to provide heightened security and further secure entry.
- 3. Hello. I am wondering if anyone/everyone can apply for the adult school office assistant program?**  
Adult education classes are open to persons 18 years of age and older, emancipated minors and pregnant or parenting minors.
- 4. I had a couple questions about the upcoming In-Home Care Class (10/16 -11/17/23): What time and where will the classes be held? How do I sign up to reserve a spot?**  
Classes run from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday - Friday, 12:00 - 3:15 PM in room 209 of the main building at Stockton School for Adults (1525 Pacific Ave.). Students can register in person, beginning Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, by filling out the "In-Home Care" registration form available in the front office, or by calling Stockton School for Adults (209-933-7455) during regular business hours and requesting to be placed on the class list. This will reserve the students' spot in the class. This class is free and is offered by Stockton School for Adults and its industry partner "Pacific Home Care Services".
- 5. Good afternoon. I would like to know if I can obtain the school calendar for students to better organize time with my students.**  
You can find the 2023-2024 instructional calendar at the following [link](#).
- 6. Many of our students have so much talents in music and arts. However, the music and arts education seems to be put to the side burner. Funds for these programs are very limited. For example, marching band students have not had uniforms in many years. It was recently purchased but some school sites are still waiting. Students still don't have a**

**complete uniforms. As for some students, music and arts maybe their career path. How commit are you in supporting the students and these program?**

I fully understand and appreciate the immense value that these programs bring to our students, not just in terms of their personal growth but also as avenues to express their passions, interests and talents.

I want to assure you that my commitment to supporting our students and these programs is unwavering. I firmly believe in the "Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Community" approach, which recognizes that a comprehensive education includes a strong foundation in the arts. I believe that the expanded definition of student success includes nurturing the creative, expressive, and emotional aspects of our students as well.

To demonstrate this dedication, let me highlight our track record of support for the arts:

1. **Proposition 28:** We have actively advocated for Proposition 28, which prioritizes the arts and music education within our schools. This funding will be instrumental in ensuring that our students have access to quality arts and music programs.
2. **Arts and Music Block Grant:** We will allocate the resources from the Arts and Music Block Grant to sustain and expand these programs. This grant will enable us to improve infrastructure, retain skilled instructors, and provide students with the tools they need to excel in music and the arts.
3. **LCAP Funding:** Our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) also reflects our dedication to fostering a well-rounded education that includes music and arts. We allocate funding to ensure these programs remain an integral part of our curriculum.

I believe that music and arts education not only enrich the lives of our students but also contribute to the cultural and artistic vibrancy of our community. I will continue to work to ensure that our schools have the necessary resources and support to nurture the talents of our young artists and musicians.

**7. When and where can we sign up for the professional development for September 21 and 22? I hope that you don't just have the same PD that you had last year.**

We are thrilled to announce that teachers will be able to sign-up for a wide variety of planned September 21 and 22 Professional Learning sessions. Sign-ups begin this Tuesday, September 12.

Staff will be receiving an email with instructions on exactly how to sign up for their sessions. Each day of Professional Learning will be from 8:00am-3:00pm with an hour lunch. Staff feedback was heard, so a greater variety of offerings and extended sessions have been developed to support deeper learning opportunities.

Participants will attend at the following locations according to the grade level spans below:  
(Preschool and TK Teachers, and TK Assistants) San Joaquin Agricultural Center  
(Preschool Assistants) School for Adults  
(K-3) Cesar Chavez High School  
(4-8) Franklin High School  
(9-12) Edison High School

Para professionals, who work on those days, will attend their sessions at the San Joaquin County Office of Education.

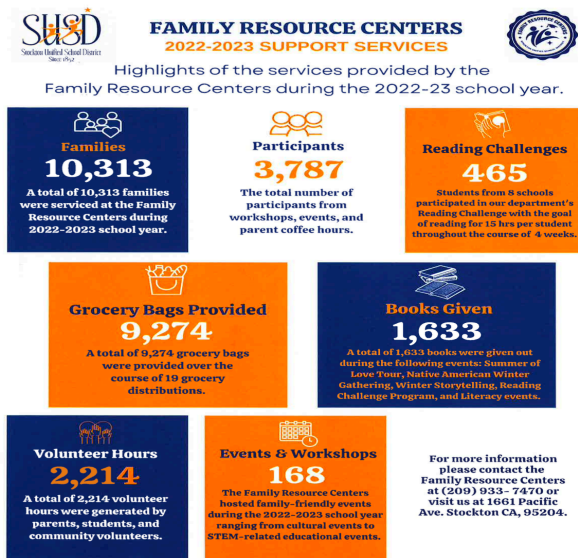
For more information, please use the link to our [SUSD Professional Development Webpage](#).

**8. When is the next food distribution at the Family Resource Center?**

We encourage any families in need to attend the next food distribution at the Family Resource Center which will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 11am-1pm.

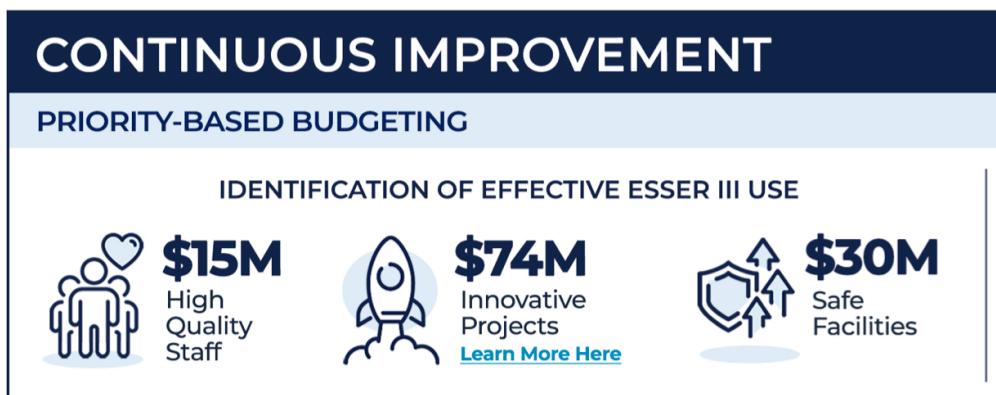
**9. What type of supports are being provided to families through the Family Resource Center?**

We have a team of dedicated staff who continue to provide high quality services to hundreds of families each year including grocery giveaways, reading challenges, parent workshops and cultural events. Below is a snapshot of the services provided during the 2022-2023 school year:



**10. Can you provide the community with where SUSD is in spending the remaining ESSER funds? I am not sure if funding has been found to backfill positions that were funded through these one-time funds or if that is on the horizon.**

The remaining ESSER III funds are being distributed as was noted on my 30 Day Progress Report.



We will be allocating \$74M towards innovative projects geared to accelerate learning. You can find all of the projects at the following [link](#). Another \$30M will be allocated towards facilities with a focus on HVAC upgrades and shade structures. The remaining \$15M will continue to fund the current ESSER funded positions. One of our District priorities is to recruit and retain high quality staff. As such, we were able to identify various alternative funding sources for the ESSER funded positions including Nutrition Services Fund, Bond Fund, LCFE Supplemental and Concentration Funding, Title I, Learning Loss Funding and General Fund. Therefore, we will not be releasing any staff in those ESSER funded positions.