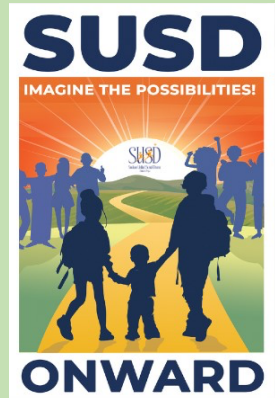




# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #9 2024-25 School Year – Week of September 30, 2024

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

**1. When will students be receiving the promised 2:1 Chromebooks? They are missing out on so many academic and SEL interventions by not having these yet.**

The SUSD Board of Trustees recently approved the purchase of an additional 6,000 Chromebooks on September 24, 2024. The vendor has received the purchase order but has not provided an estimated time of shipping. However, if your student(s) need Chromebook(s) for use at home or in the classroom, please contact Technology and Innovation (T&I) services at (209) 933-7090 or submit a help desk ticket and T&I staff will accommodate. T&I completed the Chromebook counts at each site and will soon replenish the sites with the most need first in the upcoming weeks.

**2. Why is the school district so concerned about locking classrooms doors? I like to keep my door open for circulation.**

It is important to keep our classroom doors locked for many reasons such as minimizing classroom interruptions and ensuring the safety of those within the classroom. When a door is locked, it keeps unwanted interruptions, visitors and unknown trespassers out. This forces anyone who wishes to gain access to go through the proper district process via the school's front office. Research has further shown that no active shooter/threat has made it through a locked door. The locked door creates a barrier and deterrent for anyone who may wish to cause harm by making it harder to gain access. The district has made locked classroom doors an expectation to help keep our teachers and students safe.

**3. I heard the district negotiators have said they will no longer pay for negotiated raises retroactively. The district normally negotiates union agreements in arrears—usually 2-3 years. Does this mean the district will complete contract negotiations prior to the contract year in question from now on? If not, how is it possible to negotiate in arrears but not pay retroactively?**

Our goal as a district is indeed to streamline our negotiation process to ensure clarity and fairness for all parties involved. We aim to finalize negotiations well in advance, ideally settling terms for the 2025-2026 school year by spring of 2025. This proactive approach allows us to provide certainty and stability to our staff and budget planning. Regarding retroactive pay, while it is our preference to align negotiations with the upcoming contract year, we understand the complexities that can sometimes arise in the negotiation

process. If negotiations extend beyond the start of the contract year, we remain committed to honoring any agreements reached retroactively.

- 4. Good morning, I have a concern about the preschool menus. Since school started the menus for breakfast and lunch have been almost the same. Pretty much for the last three months all that has changed on the menu is the dates. My students are getting bored with the same thing every single week. Is there a reason why it is the same thing all the time? Can this be changed? What happened to the fresh food that we used to receive? sometimes we are getting two fruits and not a vegetable. As a result of the meals not being adequate for the students, meal times are hard because they are bored with the food. Thank you for helping our students and giving them better nutrition.**

The Child Nutrition Department is always open to suggestions and feedback from the staff that serves our wonderful preschool. The Child Nutrition Department intends to collaborate with our preschool/Head Start programs to ensure program compliance, age/grade appropriate food items, and the greatest opportunity to be exposed to a variety of food choices. Our preschool meal program is mandated to meet specific requirements which often creates challenges in the acquisition of compliant and age-appropriate items.

The Child Nutrition Department has been navigating the supply chain as certain items have become unavailable and/or produce supplies have been impacted by weather. In addition, we have taken a more local and fresher approach to many of our menu offerings. This approach should create more flexibility in what we can offer our preschool program.

The Child Nutrition Department does hear you, and your feedback is much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out, we are interested in hearing from you. Your feedback can help us to provide the best possible service to our students. Here is a link to our SUSD website for contact information:

<https://www.stocktonusd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=311>

- 5. Who do I reach out to with my questions about CPI?**

SUSD staff can email Adrien Faamausili, our new Coordinator of Professional Development, at [afaamausili@stocktonusd.net](mailto:afaamausili@stocktonusd.net) for information on our Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) trainings.

**6. What are the different levels/types of CPI? I really need more tools to work with some of my students.**

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Training has three levels of certification:

- a. ***Verbal Intervention (VI)***: Skills to verbally de-escalate a behavioral response + Physical Disengagement skills in the event that someone grabs a hold of you.
  1. Interpersonal behavior and nonverbal strategies that can be used to decelerate behavioral responses.
  2. A range of nonphysical approaches that can be implemented to prevent or reduce the likelihood of challenging, aggressive, and violent behavior.
  3. How to respond to risk behavior using nonverbal, verbal, and physical approaches appropriate to the person, situation, and level of risk.
  4. The importance of recording and reporting the key information that should be documented and reported following a behavioral event.
- b. ***Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NCI)***: VI Level + Seated Holds + Standing Holds
  1. How to use physical interventions that are consistent with a set of safe physiological principles.
  2. The risks associated with the use of physical interventions.
- c. ***Advanced Physical Skills (APS)***: NCI Level + Third person support in Seated and Standing Holds + Emergency Floor Supine Hold

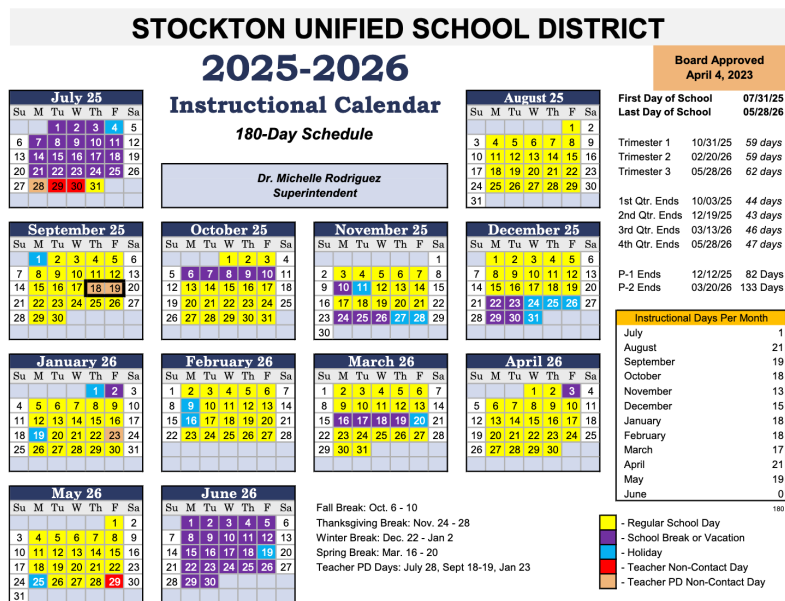
**7. I understand that there was a decision on the grievance filed by SLPs regarding caseload overages. When will we get paid?**

The assigned arbitrator has made a decision on an SPPA grievance regarding payments to SLPs for caseload overages during the 2022-23 school year. The arbitrator has instructed the parties to meet and agree on a remedy within 90 days, so no monetary awards have been granted at this time. The district is committed to keeping staff caseloads below the average. While the grievance was for a time period prior to my arrival, I can confirm that there are severe staffing shortages throughout California, especially for specialized positions such as SLPs.

To address the need to retain and attract SLPs, the district has proposed a new salary schedule for SLPs using comparable districts in our area, as well as going above most school district's compensation for SLPs. These efforts, as well as all of our other recruitment events, will help us retain and attract new SLPs (see updates on our [Labor Website](#)).

**8. Good evening! I was just curious when the calendar for next school year will be available or if it's in negotiations.**

The instructional calendar for the 2025-2026 school year has already been negotiated and approved. You can find the calendar at the following [link](#).



**9. How do teachers access the \$500 of supplies that you all gave us?**

The Stockton Unified School District recognizes the importance of providing adequate classroom materials and resources to support effective teaching and learning. Outlined below is the process to spend the \$500 per classroom teacher for educational materials directly related to classroom education. The only allowable vendor is Southwest School and Office Supply. Orders should be submitted using the Escape Online Shopping process, as normal. Each teacher should stop shopping at \$460 because the total allocated includes tax. Teachers can browse the Southwest website, build lists, and create PDFs to help the Requisitioner place their orders by using the **browse-only** login through the following website: Visit <https://www.southwestordering.com/idm/tpsLogin?routeType=sba&tpsCode=SWS>. User ID, Account Number and Password can be acquired from site office staff as it cannot be publicly displayed on these FAQs.

**10. Will you be holding more townhalls in the future. How do we suggest topics?**

We look forward to engaging with our community at the Special Education townhall scheduled for October 29th at Walton Special Center. We are always looking to address topics that are important to our community. You can suggest topics for future townhalls through the Let's Talk application on our website. Alternatively, feel free to share your suggestions during our meetings, events, or site visits—I always appreciate hearing from you directly. Your input helps us ensure our townhalls are valuable and responsive to the needs of our students and families.