



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #2 2024-25 School Year – Week of August 12, 2024

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

- 1. Good afternoon, I loved seeing the picture and logo "Onward" displayed on our activity bags, as well as on the t-shirts worn during the Staff Kick-Off. I would love to know if additional stickers and/or t-shirts could be made available for those of us who would like to purchase them. Have a fantastic week!**

We are excited to announce that, due to popular demand, SUSD Onward: Imagine the Possibilities shirts are now available for staff! If you would like to receive one, please complete the Google document by Friday, August 30, 2024. Thank you for your continued dedication and enthusiasm! You can find the link to the Google document at the following [link](#).

- 2. I appreciate that we already got our one-time payment of \$7500. When will we see our retro check?**

Per the terms of our agreements, we have a four-month window to process the retroactive payments. These payments will be made no later than October 31st for CSEA 821, CSEA 318, MGT, CONF, POLICE, STA, SUSU, and USA, and no later than November 30th for CSEA 885, NUHW, and SPPA. We value our employees and appreciate your patience and understanding as we ensure the payments are made as quickly as possible.

- 3. I really enjoyed the parent conference. Will we have another parent conference soon?**

We are proud of the participation of our parents, SUSD departments and community partners which resulted in the success of our first Annual Parent Empowerment Conference. Our Family Resource Center team, who organized the conference, is excited to make this an annual tradition that our students, staff, families and community can look forward to each August. Although we will not have another Parent Empowerment Conference until next year, there will be many more opportunities for both staff and families to engage with the District during this school year.

- 4. Pear deck. Is the district going to purchase this program for the district?**

Yes, the district renewed Pear Deck for the 2024-2025 school year. The Technology & Innovation team tested and verified Pear Deck accounts are working. If you are having

issues with access please contact the Technology & Innovation Department at <https://helpdesk.stocktonusd.net/> or call (209) 933-7090, then press 1.

5. Where can I find information on the Fall Camp for my daughter? I received a phone call but did not catch the information.

Registration for Fall Break “Day Camps” opened Thursday, August 1, 2024 and will be open through August 30, 2024. All SUSD TK-8th grade students are invited to join. The program operates from October 7th - October 11th, 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Students enrolled will be able to take a field trip to Dell’Osso Family Farms. You may go to our ELOP District webpage to register at www.stocktonusd.net/elop or simply register at your school site. Student enrollment is based on staffing.

6. Many of the preschool playgrounds do not have access to any shade for the children. It is required by licensing that we have shade for the play areas. When we ask the preschool department for a solution we get either an umbrella, or a shade pop-up. We need permanent shade structures on our playgrounds that will keep our youngest students safe from sunburn, and cancer causing sun rays.

We also need to consider the staff that are out in that sun and heat as well.

All of our future preschool playground projects will include large permanent shade structures. Examples are our recently completed playgrounds at Adams, August, and Washington. We are currently working on playgrounds with shade at Weber Preschool, Bush, King, Hazelton, McKinley, and Roosevelt. Each of our preschool centers has identified shade in order to meet licensing requirements such as trees, umbrellas, and/or pop-ups. Our overall goal is to ensure that every preschool playground incorporates large shade structures.

In addition, each school site is in the process of receiving two shade structures and will have them within the next several months. Some of the sites have selected locations dedicated to their youngest students including their preschool playgrounds.

7. What is the deadline to fill out and submit the Parent Handbook forms?

We ask that all families fill out the forms by Friday, August 16, 2024.

8. I do not want to fill out the Parent Handbook online. Where can I access a hard copy of the Parent Handbook?

A hard copy of the Parent Handbook can be requested at the front office of your child’s school. However, we highly encourage all parents and guardians to fill out and submit the online version to ensure your child’s information is readily accessible to site staff.

9. I am a parent who is wondering why our School Counselors do not have "view only" access to SEIS? A group of us are finding that there is a disconnect in School Counselors knowing what classes a student may need based off of their IEP. They must wait for a Program Specialist and Case Manager/Teacher to provide them

with insight or to provide them with the "at-a-glance" page. This can often take time and the information is not always readily available. School Counselors do attend IEP meetings to receive the right course information, however, timing and easy accessibility is not always available - again, to schedule our kids in the right classes from the get go.

We follow strict guidelines around the confidentiality of all of our students. We also want to share accurate information from our IEP members who are experts in their field and who have received specialized training and certification in Special Education. We err on the side of caution to make sure that any inquiries around an IEP are responded to by the appropriate case manager or member of the IEP team, in order to avoid any misinterpretation of the contents of the IEP. We continue to work closely with Student Services and communicate with the Counseling Department and appreciate this feedback so we are aware of any accessibility issues specifically around scheduling for students and access to all classes.

10. We need more resources for the implementation of Escape. Can you provide them?

We recognize the challenge of changing to a new management system. The implementation of Escape will allow us to streamline and automate processes. You can find the Frontline Escape Budget Training Guides posted to Business Services/ Business Resources/ Frontline Escape Training Guides as noted below. We are also working to complete how-to videos that are easily accessible for staff on common procedures. Please reach out to your budget analyst if you need more assistance.

