



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



## Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Edition #33 2024-25 School Year – Week of April 21, 2025

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

### 1. When will principals receive their Panorama results?

The results from the 2025 Panorama Survey have already been received. Principals can currently access their individual school site data through the Panorama portal. To support effective data use, a refresher training will be provided during the upcoming Leadership Meeting next week. District-wide results—which reflect very promising trends—will be formally shared at the May 13, 2025 Board Meeting and highlighted in my weekly message to staff.

### 2. How do I get a website either unblocked so that I can use it in my classroom or blocked because it has inappropriate content?

To request that a website be either unblocked for instructional purposes or blocked due to inappropriate content, please email with the specific website URL and a brief explanation for your request. The Technology and Innovation Team will review your submission and, if approved, will take action—typically within 24 hours.

### 3. What is the Math Curriculum Review & Calibration Team and when will the math adoption start?

Beginning in July of 2025, the Math Curriculum Review & Calibration (CRC) Team will begin Phase 1 of SUSD's math adoption with setting a solid foundation aligned with the 2023 Math Framework by delving into the:

- instructional shifts: inquiry-based learning as well as culturally responsive and relevant math instruction
- big ideas for learning; with an emphasis on deep conceptual understanding over procedural memorization, and
- equity and access for all students

The CRC team will also review the framework's guidance on reviewing and implementing High Quality Math Instructional Materials, and in alignment with the district's vision and mission for mathematics education, develop rubrics and tools to assess math instructional resources and calibrate teaching practices. Through August and September of 2025, the team will then utilize these developed rubrics and tools in each other's classrooms with our existing curriculum for further refinement.

In November 2025, the California Department of Education (CDE) is projected to share the approved math instructional materials list. This list will drive Phase 2 of SUSD's math adoption, where the CRC team will join an additional group of teachers and pilot math curricula, ultimately selecting one to recommend for District adoption.

**4. When is the Math Curriculum Review Meeting? What if I cannot attend?**

If you would like more information about the Math Curriculum Review Team, please join us for the informational Zoom session on: Monday, April 28 @ 4:00-4:30 pm [Click here to register](#). The information meetings will be recorded so that educators that are not able to attend, may review the recordings and determine their level of interest in the CRC Teamwork.

**5. I was told we have a Green Team now. What Projects is the Green Team currently working on?**

The SUSD Green Team is currently working on three key projects including:

District-Wide Recycling Program

- Implementing a 3-bin recycling system
- Piloting the program at District Office, Primary Years Academy, and Merlo
- Developing educational materials and signage for proper recycling

Green Initiative Policy Development

- Researching board policies from other districts as models
- Creating a comprehensive sustainability policy for SUSD
- Working on implementation plans for the 2025-26 school year

Environmental Education Integration

- Exploring resources for curriculum integration
- Considering environmental literacy classes
- Planning professional development opportunities for teachers and other staff

**6. Hello. I am a teacher for the district and I wanted to move over the pay scale by submitting units. However, I wanted to know when do we have to submit the official transcripts with the units by to move onto the pay scale for the upcoming school year? Not only that but is there a limit on how many units we can submit per school year? Thank you!**

To advance on the salary schedule for the current school year, teachers must have official transcripts submitted to the Human Resources Office by November 1st. All coursework must be completed before the first day of the employee's work year. Teachers may take upper division and graduate courses for salary advancement without prior approval.

However, to receive credit for more than fifteen (15) units in one (1) year, prior approval from the District is required.

**7. Good afternoon, Dr. Rodriguez,**

**I am reaching out because I have a concern. I have recently learned that fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms as well as kinder will be consolidated and there will be up to 33 students per teacher. That seems like too many students for one teacher, we must keep in mind that some of these students may have IEP's, and the teacher will need to continuously work on their accommodations throughout the day. Will these teachers be given aides in their classrooms in order to accommodate those students that will need more attention/help than others? If I were a parent of students in a classroom with over 30 students, I would be very concerned by the large number of students per teacher ratio. I'm not an expert in this area, but I do believe that smaller classrooms are a better choice to produce students with the skills that they will need to move on to their next grade, and to master their grade level work. I do have some prior experience working in kindergarten classrooms, and I have seen the deficiencies in students not being able to learn their letter names and letter sounds for this reason I believe that increasing the student ratio would be a bad move. Can you please share with me the thought process and any research backing up this choice.**

Class sizes are a critical consideration impacting student learning and teacher effectiveness. The decision-making process regarding class sizes involves negotiations between the Stockton Teachers Association (STA) and SUSD, governed by the terms outlined in Article 2 of our collective bargaining agreement. As such, any adjustments to class size limits must be mutually agreed upon through this bargaining process.

Currently, under the existing contract, kindergarten maximum class size is set at 32, with modifications based on LCFF's Class Size Grade Span Adjustment. I understand your concern regarding the potential increase in student-teacher ratios and its impact on educational outcomes. STA and SUSD are actively engaged in negotiating the next contract (2025-2028), where proposals, including class sizes, are being reviewed with similar concerns being voiced and recognized. For the latest updates on these negotiations, I encourage you to visit our Labor Relations webpage.

**8. Hello,**

**In the April 11th Ask Dr. Rodriguez, the following was stated: Persons on our campus are defined by these three group categories [visitor, volunteer, consultant] and not per the amount of time they spend on campus. Our school staff is trained in responding to various safety threats on campus and may contact our District police department at anytime they feel a person may be a safety risk to our staff and students.**

**I love having parents visit my classroom, but I get resistance from office staff and admin because of a supposed "15 minute rule". So what is it? Are parents able to visit campus as visitors without a time limit? And if there isn't, can that be communicated to all staff?**

**Thank you**

Regarding the 15-minute rule, there is no legal requirement stipulated in the Education Code or Penal Code concerning a time limit for parents visiting our campus. Although this may have been past practice, the guidelines we adhere to categorize individuals as visitors, volunteers, or consultants, without specific time constraints based on their role. We should use these guidelines to balance student and staff safety and the benefit of parent engagement and involvement.

I understand the importance of clear communication on this matter across all levels of our staff. We will discuss these guidelines at our upcoming principal and office staff meetings to ensure alignment and clarity for everyone involved.

**9. I am an SLP that works with autism students, and I was wondering how to get therapy dogs to visit my school? Thank you!**

Our partnership with Dignity Health St. Joseph's Medical Center's CanineKindness Pet Therapy Program offers a unique and meaningful opportunity to enhance social-emotional learning (SEL) for specialized programs in our school community. By incorporating certified therapy dogs into our educational environment, students are able to engage in a nurturing and calming experience that supports emotional regulation, empathy, and interpersonal skills. Pet therapy helps foster a sense of connection and trust, creating a safe space for students to express themselves, manage stress, and build resilience. This innovative collaboration not only enriches our SEL initiatives but also equips students with lifelong skills in compassion, self-awareness, and responsible decision-making.

If there is interest to learn more about the CanineKindness Pet Therapy Program and student participation, SUSD School Site Administration can contact Karen Coleman, Director, Mental Health & Behavior Support Services @ [kcoleman@stocktonusd.net](mailto:kcoleman@stocktonusd.net).

**10. My son has a interdistrict transfer pending to attend Peyton Elementary but he is currently an LUSD student, can he attend SUSD summer school/ ELOP at Peyton Elementary?**

To participate in our SUSD ELOP/after-school programs, students in grades TK–12 must be enrolled and attending a Stockton Unified School District school, and have a valid student ID. This ensures we are able to provide services to enrolled SUSD students and

receive the appropriate funding to support their continued learning and enrichment after the school day and school year ends.

We are happy to share that after-school registration for the 2025–2026 school year will officially open on May 12, 2025. We encourage you to visit our ELOP webpage at [www.stocktonusd.net/elop](http://www.stocktonusd.net/elop) to learn more about our engaging programs, activities, and services offered at school sites across the district.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at (209) 933-7132, [chat with us](#) , or connect with us anytime through [Let's Talk](#).