



## Press Release Rio Rancho Public Schools

500 Laser Rd. NE • Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
(505) 896-0667 • Fax (505) 896-0662 • [www.rrps.net](http://www.rrps.net)

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*For Immediate Release*

Contact: Kim Vesely at 896-0667 ext. 219  
Jeff Bronstein at 338-0078 ext. 101

### **Bus Route Review Means Changes for Students**

If your children ride the bus to school, don't assume that they'll ride the same bus, at the same time, from the same bus stop, as last year. Chances are they'll be on a different route and may even board the bus at a different bus stop and time.

Every year, Rio Rancho Public School's Department of Student Transportation and the district's school bus contractor, Durham School Services, carefully review bus routes to make sure school buses are being used efficiently. This is especially important because Rio Rancho's growth means more students than ever are riding school buses. More than 70% of Rio Rancho students -- some 12,000 children -- are eligible to ride the bus to school.

The district believes that changes to school schedules, coupled with route changes, will enable the district to safely transport children who qualify to ride the bus and will improve on-time pick-up and delivery of students. Under state statute, students qualify for transportation if they live more than one mile away from an elementary school, one and one-half miles from a middle school (and Rio Rancho Mid-High), or two miles from a high school.

Please keep in mind that as school begins bus routes may to be tweaked due to various circumstances, which sometime lead to temporary delays in bus schedules. We ask for parents' support and patience during the first weeks of school as we balance bus loads and make any adjustments necessary to optimize the safety and reliability of our bus system. We are confident that these adjustments will further enhance on-time service.

Parents may contact the Student Transportation Department at 338-0078 ext. 100, 102, 103, or 107 with questions about their child's school bus stop or other concerns. The Transportation Web site, <http://www.rrps.net/Administration/Transportation/transport.html>, includes the latest information.