The RRPS Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all district schools comply with the state laws governing the age of enrollment for students. Initial placement will be determined by the guidelines described below.

**Early Childhood**
The District provides an early childhood program at Shining Stars Pre-School for children who are residents of the District and eligible for special education services pursuant to state regulations. Such eligible child may be enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program at Shining Stars Pre-School if such child is at least three (3) years old at time of enrollment.

**Pre-Kindergarten**
A child is otherwise eligible to enroll in the District’s pre-kindergarten program if he or she is at least four (4) years old as of September 1 in the year in which the child first seeks to be enrolled and is a resident of the District. Students who are four years old as of September 1 and are not eligible for special education services are selected for enrollment in Shining Stars Pre-School through a lottery.

**Kindergarten**
A child is eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten if he or she is five (5) years old prior to 12:01 a.m., September 1 of the year in which the child first seeks to be enrolled. A child moving to Rio Rancho who has been in a kindergarten program in other areas, or has been enrolled in private kindergarten programs but was not five (5) years old prior to 12:01 a.m., on September 1 of the enrolling year is not eligible for enrollment into Rio Rancho Public Schools kindergarten programs.

**Grade 1**
Generally, a child must be six (6) years old prior to 12:01 a.m., September 1 of the year he or she first seeks to be enrolled in the first grade in Rio Rancho Public Schools.

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, children who will not be six years old prior to 12:01 a.m. on September 1 of the year of enrollment, may enroll in first grade if the child is at least five (5) years old and one of the following criteria is met:

1. the child has successfully completed a full year of kindergarten at an accredited public school or an accredited private kindergarten program; or
2. the child is transferring from an accredited public or an accredited private school first-grade program.

Students who have completed first grade and who apply for initial enrollment in the district's schools by transfer from accredited non-public schools or from public schools outside the district will be initially enrolled at the grade level shown on their previous school’s official record pending review of such records. The review shall include but is not limited to, attendance and assessment records, evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, where available, and the school principal. After such evaluations have been completed the principal will determine the final grade placement of the student.
Special Education
The school district provides individualized education programs ("special education") additional to, supplementary with, or different from those provided in the regular school program by a systematic modification and adoption of instructional techniques, materials and equipment to meet the needs of eligible exceptional children. No student shall be enrolled in special education who is the age of twenty-two prior to the beginning of that school year, or after the completion of a planned program.

Rio Rancho Public Schools
Adopted: May 13, 2013