



East Ramapo Central School District

105 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

A Unified Community Educating the Whole Child ...

Dr. Raymond Giamartino Jr.
Interim Superintendent of Schools
845-577-6011

Douglas M. Schwegler
Director School Transportation II
845-577-6490

September 10, 2020

Dear Families:

The East Ramapo Central School District is providing this update to parents and schools regarding the current state of busing.

Historically, especially over the last number of years, it has become more difficult to hire, train, and retain highly qualified school bus drivers.

This year, with the COVID Pandemic, drivers have left the industry en masse, thus making it even more difficult for transportation companies to hire personnel. This is out of the District's control. It is also out of the contractor's control.

Currently, every contractor that the District utilizes is experiencing driver shortages. They are attempting to rectify this issue by any means possible, keeping in mind that the drivers they hire must be fully credentialed. The qualifications that a school bus driver must meet are many. These include a valid Commercial Driver's License, criminal background check, drug and alcohol screening, and all related New York State Department of Education trainings and certifications. The qualifying of a driver is a lengthy process and must be adhered to for the safety of all of our students. There is no compromising on this process.

This year, with the reduced number of students permitted on a school bus, every District must use more school buses than normal. This fact puts even more of a strain on the already decreased driver ranks which will inevitably result in late and even missing buses in the morning, afternoon, and midday times.

In light of this unforeseen set of circumstances, we truly appreciate your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times, which are being called, "the new normal". We will work tirelessly to achieve success in all that we do for our students, parents, and schools. Thank you.

Best,

Douglas Schwegler, Director of Transportation