



Dr. Veronica C. García
Secretary of Education

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786
www.ped.state.nm.us

Beverly Friedman &
Andy Lenderman
Public Information Officers
505.827.6661-505.476.0393

NEWS RELEASE

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School Bus Drivers to Compete for Top Safety Awards

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico’s safest school bus drivers will be honored this Friday at the annual New Mexico School Bus Driver Safety Competition, or ROAD-E-O, in Albuquerque. The event is scheduled for Friday morning, June 5 at the parking lot of Wilson Stadium, 12200 Lomas Blvd. N.E.

The drivers at Friday’s contest have either won local school district safety competitions or were selected by districts to attend.

The event begins with a written test at 8:30 a.m. The driving competition begins at 10 a.m., followed by awards. The event is free and open to the public.

The winner of Friday’s competition will represent New Mexico at the School Bus Driver International Safety Competition, to be held July 18-19, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Last year’s New Mexico winner was Lee Roy of Gallup-McKinley County Schools.

“New Mexico school bus drivers perform a critical public service by transporting our children safely to school,” Secretary of Education Veronica C. García said. “I’m proud to highlight the importance of their work.”

“School bus drivers are unsung heroes in New Mexico public schools,” said Carlos M. Santiago of the Public Education Department’s School Transportation Bureau. “The ROAD-E-O offers New Mexico school bus drivers the opportunity to receive the recognition they deserve.”

The School Bus Driver Safety Competition offers parents, students and others a way to view the driving skills of New Mexico’s school bus drivers. The event is sponsored by the New Mexico School Bus Safety Program, a group of volunteers from school districts, bus companies and the Public Education Department.

Facts about school bus travel in the 2008-09 school year include:

Students who traveled by bus daily: 187,051
Number of miles traveled: 36.2 million
Number of buses: 2,282

For more information, go to www.nmsbsp.org.

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