



URGENT YELLOW BUS CHALLENGE SCHEDULE CHANGES Monday, August 16, 2021

Dear RUSD Parents and Guardians,

Due to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a nationwide bus driver shortage impacting companies around the country. Regrettably, the Yellow Bus Challenge (YBC) has just been notified that the company that operates our bus service does not have enough drivers to cover our routes this school year and will not be able to hire additional drivers. Unfortunately, no contract or substitute drivers are available for hire. This will result in the operation of five buses this school year, rather than the seven we originally anticipated.

These are extraordinary circumstances, and we have worked as diligently as possible over the last few days to craft a solution that will allow us to provide service to all riders who have purchased a pass. In partnership with Marin Transit, we have developed a plan to consolidate existing buses and routes. Aside from canceling multiple routes, this is the only option that will allow us to deliver school bus service to all current RUSD pass holders. We apologize for any minor inconveniences or schedule changes this may cause, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these challenging circumstances.

Parents should be aware that:

- This consolidation will result in relatively minor timing changes for the vast majority of both am and pm routes (e.g., earlier departures in the morning or later arrivals in the afternoon). Parents should visit [this link](#) after Tuesday, August 17, to view updated timetables and stops.
- The Green bus serving Reed School will be combined with the Orange bus serving Del Mar. Older children will be seated in the rear of the bus; younger children will be seated toward the front of the bus. Combining different-age riders has not been a YBC practice in the past but is a regular practice in other districts in Marin County and in California.
- FirstView bus tracking app availability will be delayed, as new maps, routes, and times will need to be entered. We will send a communication to parents when the app is available for use. In the interim, parents will be notified via text message if needed.
- The bus program abides by safety standards set by Marin's public health department. COVID-19 mitigation strategies (universal masking, ventilation, disinfecting buses) will remain in place. There are currently no

COVID-related capacity restrictions or social distancing requirements on school buses.

The YBC team will be available to respond to your inquiries about routes and timing by email at info@buschallenge.org. Families who would like a refund on their passes should send a photo of their rider(s) pass(es) cut in half to info@buschallenge.org. Refunds will be initiated within 48 hours.

We thank you in advance for your patience and support during these unparalleled times. The YBC will continue its mission to reduce school traffic and appreciates your support in doing so.

The Yellow Bus Challenge Team

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