

# DICK HILLIER TUTORING PROGRAM



- Dick Hillier was a long-time member of Rio Rancho Rotary. He initiated this program in the Rio Rancho Public School District and drew great joy from helping struggling students reach their potential. The program, which began in 2010 continues to grow.
- The Dick Hillier Tutoring Program began because of a need that came from concerned teachers stating they needed more individual time with students in their classroom who could not read at grade level.
- Over 70% of New Mexico 4th graders cannot read at grade level. The premise that students learn to read up to the 3rd grade, dooms these children to years of poor academic performance.
- Rio Rancho has been blessed with an outstanding public school system. Our professional educators are dedicated to every student with the reading skills necessary for success. However, even with all these efforts we still have students who cannot read at grade level when they leave elementary school.
- The pandemic has exacerbated this issue as virtual education does not provide the necessary support that underperforming students need. The last two school years have been an exceedingly difficult time for many more of our early elementary students.
- The Rio Rancho Rotary Club addresses this issue with a unique, extraordinarily successful program, the Dick Hillier Tutoring Program. The program is unique in that the participating teachers are paid a small stipend to tutor their own selected students outside normal classroom hours. Teachers select 5 or 6 of their own students that need individual attention and works with them 2 hours per week for 15 weeks.
- Standardized tests given before and after the program show a marked improvement in each student's reading ability. Aside from the academic improvement, the student's self-confidence grows and the more fully participate in all classroom activities. This 12-year program is in high demand in the Rio Rancho School District. Over 850 students have participated in the program with over 90% of them improving their reading skills.
- We currently provide the program in 5 of the district's 11 elementary schools. With the help of our community businesses, we have a goal of providing the tutoring program in all 11 schools.
- The DHTP is funded through events held during the year as well as sponsorships from our community businesses.

- The Rio Rancho Rotary Club has no administrative costs associated with this program. All sponsorships and donations go directly to the Dick Hillier Tutoring Program to fund a school or a teacher with the goal of benefiting the long term success of our students and the future of our community.



[www.dickhilliertutoring.com](http://www.dickhilliertutoring.com)  
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