

TUESDAY ★
FEBRUARY 27, 1996 24 Pages

Remote West Texans hope to shorten long school drives

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - The end of the road could be in sight for what may be the nation's longest school bus ride.

School officials have begun the biggest push yet in efforts to create a high school in the remote Big Bend region, where students now are forced to make round-trip commutes of 160 miles or more to get to classes.

"By hook or by crook, we're going to have a new high school here by August," Terlingua Common School District principal Kathy Killingsworth said. Trustees for both the Terlingua district and the San Vicente district, which is based at Big Bend

National Park, have approved a proposal for a "partnership" high school and sent it to the Texas Education Agency for review.

As outlined, the new school would accommodate about 40 students in seven classrooms and use both full-time and guest instructors.

The proposal describes a technologically advanced school where students will benefit from traditional teaching methods with interactive video and other computer-based instruction.

If successful, the effort would end what has been one of life's *Please see DRIVE, Page 4A*



AP Photo
Students leave a bus Friday near Bee Mountain in the Big Bend area. Some students must commute 160 miles round-trip to Alpine High School. Two districts in the area hope to build a high school to shorten their ride.