



ridefinders.org • (800) VIP-RIDE

Schoolpool

FAQs for Parents

What is Schoolpool?

Schoolpool is a free program for all kindergarten - 12th grade (K-12) schools in the St. Louis region, created by RideFinders, to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Schoolpool offers schools and parents a free, secure online matching service to help families form carpools, walking school buses or bike trains to safely transport students to and from school.

- **Carpool:** A Parent drives their child and other parents' children to school in their vehicles.
- **Walking School Bus:** A parent leader walks their child and other parents' children to school.
- **Bike Train:** A parent leader rides their bike with their child and other parents' children to school.

How does the Schoolpool matching service work?

1. If your child's school participates in Schoolpool, the school can provide you with the secure passcode required to register with the matching service.
2. Log-on to ridefinders.org to begin the registration process:
 - A). Enter your email address and create a password
 - B). Create a Parent Profile containing your name, address and contact information
 - C). Create a Student Profile for your child(ren) using the passcode provided by the school.
 - D). Select your Schoolpool preferences
3. Select Schoolpool "Match" to receive a list of parents within your child's school interested in forming a Schoolpool.
4. Contact these parents using the information provided to discuss forming a Schoolpool.
5. If you are unable to find any matches try adjusting your profile settings and preferences.

What security features does the SchoolPool matching service provide?

- Schools create a unique school security pass code to give only to eligible parents.
- Parents must have the unique school security passcode to register with the program.
- The Schoolpool matching database is separate from RideFinders commuter ridematching database.
- Street addresses are always kept private and phone numbers can be made private.
- Student names and gender are always kept private, unless the parent chooses otherwise.
- Parents can only match to parents with students at the same school as their child.

How can I find out if my school is enrolled in Schoolpool?

Parents must contact their child's school to find out if the school is enrolled in Schoolpool. If the school is NOT enrolled, please contact RideFinders at (800) 847-7433 or ridefinders@mct.org.

Does RideFinders have tips for forming a Schoolpool?

- **Create a Driving Schedule:** Determine who wants to drive and create a schedule.
- **Establish Carpool Rules:** Set rules on eating, drinking, radio, meeting/drop-off details, etc.
- **Determine Gas Money:** If one parent does not drive, decide on the amount to pay driving parents.
- **Compile Contact Sheet:** Include each parent's name, home/cell phone numbers and email address.

Do I have to Schoolpool a certain number of days?

While parents are under no obligation to Schoolpool once they have registered, RideFinders encourages parents and their child to carpool, walk or bike as often as they can.

How does Schoolpool benefit parents?

Parents receive direct and convenient transportation to school that saves them money on gas and provides them with extra time to balance home and work schedules.

What guidelines for Schoolpool must parents follow?

- Parents must have liability auto insurance meeting state guidelines to be a Schoolpool driver.
- Registered parents must be the only drivers of the Schoolpool. No one else is allowed to drive.

Can I participate in Schoolpool without my school's participation?

No. To be official participants of Schoolpool and have access to the online matching service the child's K-12 school must participate in Schoolpool. Parents must have a secure passcode which is provided by the school to register for the matching service. This process ensures only eligible parents receive this passcode and helps RideFinders effectively implement the Schoolpool program.

What is RideFinders?

Created in 1994, RideFinders is operated by Madison County Transit to improve air quality in the St. Louis region by reducing traffic congestion. Funding for RideFinders is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration.