

Organizing a Neighborhood SchoolPool Network

It may take a few weeks to get things going smoothly, so be patient in the beginning. Soon you will have a neighborhood travel system in place for the rest of the year and beyond. Whether it is for carpooling, biking, walking, or a combination, you will have a pool of people to call on when you are in a bind and need help getting your children to or from school and possibly to other activities. These networks can last throughout your children's school years.

- Determine what modes you will be using – walking, biking, carpooling, or a combination.
- Compare your schedules – bell times, work schedules, after-school activities.
- Decide if your SchoolPool will operate for rides home after school as well as morning drop-off.
- Decide how many days you will SchoolPool. You can start with one day a week, and then build upon that once you feel at ease with your new SchoolPool.
- Work out a calendar and assign responsibilities. Establish meeting places, weather, and how you will deal with tardiness issues.
- Make a weekly schedule of when each family is “driving” the SchoolPool. Include contact information.
- Distribute the schedule to the other families and suggest they post the schedule at home in a central family location.
- Discuss each parent’s responsibilities and obligations: how to handle emergency situations, and other guidelines.
- Establish children’s responsibilities: behavior, tardiness, obeying traffic rules.
- See special instructions for Walking and BikePools.



FOR CARPOOLING:

- Determine which families will initially carpool together; this may change as new families join or others drop out.
- Provide proof of automobile insurance to carpooling partners.
- Federal recommendations advise using a booster seat for children up to 49". Booster seats are for big kids too! To determine whether your child still needs a booster seat, you can visit <http://www.carseat.org>.
- Determine the procedure if one family is away on vacation or if the carpool driver is sick on the day they are designated to drive.