

# SchoolPool



a better,  
healthier way  
to get your  
kids to school

## Save money and time with SchoolPool.

### A little help for busy parents.

SchoolPool connects parents who want to share the chore of getting their kids to and from school by carpooling, walking, or biking. It's a free, convenient, and secure online system organized by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) iCommute team, a team dedicated to reducing traffic congestion and improving the environment.

Using the secure online RideMatcher system, parents are matched with other parents who are interested in sharing driving responsibilities or would like to have their kids biking or walking to school with other students and a parent leader. Only parents and legal guardians of children who attend your child's school can participate in the school's private SchoolPool network.

### Sharing trips saves time, money, and the environment

SchoolPool is a convenient way to get your kids to school while saving time, saving money on gas, reducing traffic congestion, and encouraging a healthy lifestyle for your kids. By cutting the number of car trips you take, you also help the environment by decreasing emissions.

Research has proven that when students carpool, their school attendance and timeliness improve. Carpooling, biking, and walking to school also reduce traffic congestion in and around school zones, creating a safer environment for students. For some parents, having their children take public transit to school is a good option. All San Diego transit operators allow for bicycles on board, and walking children to transit stops can lead to a healthier start to your child's school day.

## SchoolPool is free, easy, and secure.

### Everyone into the Pool!

The SchoolPool program is open to parents and students in all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools within San Diego County. Participation is voluntary and parents establish the schedules that work best for them. When you sign up, be sure to help spread the word. The more parents that register in your school's secure SchoolPool network, the more likely you are to find carpool matches, bike buddies, or walking school buses.

### What are bike buddies and walking school buses?

Bike buddies are groups of students that ride bicycles to school together with adult/parent leaders. A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school together with one or more adults. Walking school buses or bike buddies can be as informal as two families taking turns biking or walking their children to school or as structured as establishing a route, a timetable, and a group of parent volunteers.

*Parents who use SchoolPool to successfully find bike buddies and walking school buses will receive a FREE bike helmet for each child who bikes to school, and a FREE baseball cap for those who walk. ALL children who either bike or walk will receive reflective backpacks. Parent leaders will be provided with safety vests. While supplies last. Please see the SchoolPool Web page for more details.*

### Participating Schools

iCommute has helped to establish SchoolPool programs at elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the region. Visit [iCommuteSD.com](http://iCommuteSD.com) and click on the SchoolPool tab to find out if your school has signed up. If not, iCommute can work with your school to set up a secure SchoolPool network.

### Getting started is as easy as A-B-C.

- A. Contact your child's school and ask for the transportation coordinator to find out if your school is participating in the SchoolPool program. If not, tell them you are interested in the free commuter program and ask them to contact iCommute. SchoolPool can be reached by calling 511 and saying "SchoolPool" when prompted — or simply visit [iCommuteSD.com](http://iCommuteSD.com). We will help establish a secure network for your school for free.
- B. If your school's already participating, request the security passcode from the SchoolPool coordinator and sign up for an account on [iCommuteSD.com](http://iCommuteSD.com).
- C. Once your account has been created, follow the step-by-step guidelines for setting up your trip to find matches (available online or ask your school for a copy). Contact parents with whom you'd like to partner, and you're ready to SchoolPool!

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**We'll help you get started today.**

Visit SchoolPool online at [iCommuteSD.com](http://iCommuteSD.com) for more information.

For direct assistance, call 511 and say 'SchoolPool' or e-mail us at [schoolpool@sandag.org](mailto:schoolpool@sandag.org).



# How to Sign Up and Participate in SchoolPool

## A Five-Step Guide to School Transportation Solutions

### Step 1

Once your school has created a SchoolPool network, to take advantage of it you as a parent will need to sign up for an iCommute SchoolPool account at [www.iCommuteSD.com](http://www.iCommuteSD.com). Click on the "SchoolPool" tab. Then, under "Quick Links," select "Parent Sign Up." Create your profile—or, if you already have an account, log in.

### Step 2

Fill in the required information with your details (not the student's). iCommute is a secure site. Your information remains private until you decide you are ready to contact a match and set up a SchoolPool. Once you have completed the form, check your inbox for a verification e-mail and click the link within it. (If you don't see it in your inbox, check your spam folder.) After you click the link, you will be redirected to the log-in screen; please sign in using the user name and password you just created. You then will be prompted to enter your home address. Please check the box that says "SchoolPool."

### Step 3

Now it is time to set up your profile. Roll over the "Profile" tab along the top of the screen and click "My Networks." Next, click "Enroll in Network," and search for your school. Click "Select" next to your school, and enter the enrollment passcode the school has given you under the "Associated Details" section. (If you did not receive a passcode or you have misplaced it, please contact your school. Staff will need to verify that you are the parent of one of the school's students and then give you the passcode.) Enter the number of children you have at this school, type in their information, and click "Submit."

### Step 4

Now it's time to look for a SchoolPool match by adding your trip information. Within the yellow box, click "Add SchoolPool Trip." Under "Start Address" either add a new address to enter a nearby meeting place or select your home address from the drop down menu. The school address should appear in the "End Address." Next, pick the days of the week and times, mode preferences (walking, biking or carpooling), and who can see your trip (meaning who can potentially show up as matches during your search). Then click "Save."

### Step 5

Under "Manage Your SchoolPool Trips" make sure your trip information is correct and then click the link that says "Find Matches" on the right to see if there are compatible matches. Remember, this is a database, so if there isn't a match right away, continue to check back because more parents are signing up all the time. (To check back, just log in and click the tab along the top that says "SchoolPool.") When you do find an appropriate match, click "Send Message." (You may send a pre-written message, or compose one of your own.) Once the person accepts your request, you will receive an e-mail notifying you and at this point your contact information will be exchanged. Now it is up to you to arrange the SchoolPool by calling or e-mailing your partner. Once logistics are figured out, you're cool to SchoolPool!

**NOTE:** *If you have previously participated in SchoolPool and already have an account, please log in to your account at [iCommuteSD.com](http://iCommuteSD.com). Then start at Step 3 to update your account for this school year.*

**For direct assistance,** please contact your school's coordinator, or call 511 and say "SchoolPool."