



TBARTA Regional School Commute Program Tips for Parents

A successful "School Commute Program" is the product of fairness multiplied by courtesy and common sense.



Don't be shy. Pick up the phone and call some of the parents on your Rideshare Match List. Don't be surprised if you get a call from someone who also wants to share a ride. Your name appears on the match lists of other interested people who have completed a School Program registration and who live near you.

Arrange a get-together to get acquainted. Set up a time to meet to discuss the possibility of ridesharing. Consider pick-up and drop-off times, driver and student responsibilities, division of expenses, if any, and personal preferences. Also, if ridesharing everyday may not work for you, try just one or two days a week.

Trust your instincts. If you sense you or your child will not get along with a potential school pooler, there is no need to push yourself or your child into an uncomfortable situation. If prospects look good, however, work out the details and agree to participate for a trial period. Evaluate the situation as you go and if you aren't happy or comfortable, you can always bow out. Check your Rideshare Match List for new partners or call your School Program Coordinator for further assistance.

Let democracy rule. Devise and agree on the "School Pool" rules right from the start: when payments, if any, are due; who collects them; whom to call in case of an absence or delay; and so on. If something about the school pool bothers you, speak up. A successful "School Pool" is the product of fairness multiplied by courtesy and common sense. Above all talk with your child about how they like the school pool.

Take the responsibility of driving seriously. If you are a driver, make sure your auto insurance covers everyone in the car. Be vigilant when you are at the wheel. This means no drinking alcohol, no smoking, no speeding,

and no aggressive driving or other forms of recklessness. Children's lives are in your hands. The comfort of passengers is also in the driver's hands, and simple courtesy dictates that your car be clean when you drive. Trash on the floor and food on the seats are discouraging sights.

Once a school pool gets started, punctuality is paramount. School poolers should agree in advance on an alternative plan in case the driver is unavailable, or will be late. A parent who anticipates their child being late, or absent should let the designated driver know, as soon as possible. If late, the parent should make their own arrangements for their child to get to school.

Avoid side trips. As the driver, make sure there's enough gas in the car for a round trip. Resist making stops to take care of personal errands. These should be handled on your own time.

Let us know about your school pool. Once you have started school pooling on a regular basis, be sure to let your assigned School Program Coordinator (SPC) know how it is working. You will also receive surveys to gather your feedback.

Above all, talk with your child about school pooling. Parents should tell their child to keep distractions to a minimum. For the protection of all, the driver needs to keep his or her eyes on the road. Discuss good "School Pool" manners, courtesy, and common sense.

Website: www.tbarta.com/en/school-program/commuter/school-program

Questions? Ask for the School Program Coordinator at your participating school.

