



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: How does SchoolPool Rideshare work?

A: SchoolPool Rideshare vans will be driven by adult volunteer drivers (usually a parent) who will drive student riders from multiple households living near each other or along a shared route to school. Volunteer drivers will drive a King County Metro minivan and will have access to a gas card to fuel the vehicle. Volunteer drivers are expected to provide and track trips, keep the SchoolPool Rideshare vehicle parked at their homes overnight and on weekends, fuel vehicle and support vehicle maintenance appointments as needed. Metro covers insurance, fuel, roadside assistance and maintenance costs.

Q. Who drives the SchoolPool Rideshare vehicle?

A: Vans are driven by volunteers from the school's community. Volunteers may include parents, guardians, caregivers, community members or even school staff. Each SchoolPool Rideshare vehicle or group, needs to have at least one driver and a back-up driver who can help with and rotate through driver responsibilities. Drivers must be approved via the school's volunteer background check and volunteer process and via Metro Transit's application and driving history/motor vehicle records check.

Q. How many students ride in each van?

A: Each SchoolPool Rideshare needs at least three (3) student riders from multiple households to start off. The minivans can accommodate up to five (5) student riders on any given day riding in the second and third row seats.

Q: Does my student need to ride every day? Can my student ride one-way?

A: Your student may schedule to ride on a full-time basis, part-time basis or just one-way. The pilot is meant to be flexible to better meet student and family school transportation needs.

Q: How much does it cost to participate in a SchoolPool van?

A: There is no cost to either student riders or adult volunteer drivers during the pilot. Student fares are covered via the statewide fare-free-youth program. Students should obtain a free Youth ORCA card to participate in this program. Metro will cover costs for the van, fuel, insurance and maintenance.

Q: Why do you need volunteer drivers for this program?

A: Just like Metro's award-winning vanpool program, volunteer drivers help keep program costs down while raising the commitment to the program's success as an active participant. SchoolPool Rideshare vehicles will be driven by dedicated volunteer drivers who want to support the school and Metro with student transportation gaps that may better fit student and family needs for drop-off/pick-up and after school activities.



Q: Can the volunteer driver use the van for their work commute, or personal use, after dropping off student riders.

A: No. SchoolPool Rideshare vehicles are meant for school-based transportation only to travel from the driver's and participating family homes along the route to the school and/or approved after-school activities.

Q: How may I volunteer to drive a SchoolPool Rideshare?

A: For more information on how to become a volunteer driver, please visit kingcounty.gov/schoolpool where the pilot team will post information and updates about this special pilot as it's developed.

Q: How may I sign-up my student to participate in SchoolPool Rideshare?

A: SchoolPool Rideshare groups will be formed in the fall. In the meantime, we will post updates and information at kingcounty.gov/schoolpool.

Thank you for your interest!

**Be on the lookout for more information about
SchoolPool along with other back-to-school
resources in the coming weeks.**