

Dear Clearwater Fundamental Middle School Parent:

Thank you for your interest in the Clearwater Fundamental Middle School Pool Program, a partnership between Clearwater Fundamental, and Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)/Bay Area Commuter Services, (BACS). Enclosed is a School Pool Match List of parents in your area who also are interested in joining a school pool.

It is necessary for you to call the people on your match list so that you may begin forming a school pool for the upcoming school year. Please be sure to read the important School Pool tips on the back. Also, your name will now appear on the match lists of others interested in school pooling, so you also may get calls from other parents who would like to share a ride.

If you should have any questions or need further assistance, you should first contact your School Pool Coordinator (SPC) at 727-298-1609. If school is not in session, you can call a customer service representative at TBARTA/BACS at 1-800-998-RIDE (7433). Don't forget, once you begin school pooling for two or more days per week on a regular basis, you need to register your school pool with the SPC. Forms for this will be available in the school office at the beginning of the school year.

Please help us by encouraging other parents to fill out School Pool registrations as soon as possible. School Pool forms will also be available on the school and PTA websites at www.coachman-ms.pinellas.k12.fl.us/ and <http://coachmanpta.com/>.

The goal of school pooling is to make your commute easier, reduce congestion on the roadways around your school, and provide another convenient and safe way to get your children to school. Thanks so much for participating in the Clearwater Fundamental Middle School Pool Program.

Sincerely,

Your School Pool Partners

Clearwater Fundamental Middle School



Enclosure:
School Pool Match List

TBARTA/BACS School Pool Program **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. What is a TBARTA/BACS School Pool Partnership?

The School Pool Program is a partnership between selected schools in the Tampa Bay region, and their respective Parent Teacher Associations (PTA), and the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)/Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS). TBARTA/BACS provides regional commuter assistance programs and services with the primary role of promoting commute options other than using a single occupant vehicle. Programs and services are funded through the Florida Department of Transportation and are provided at no cost. The commuter assistance program area covers Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus counties.

Q. Why did we create an official School Pool Program?

Many families at area schools are already participating in self-organized carpooling. TBARTA/BACS will help expand the existing program using its computerized ridematching program. TBARTA/BACS will also add promotional support, and most importantly, provide continuity to the existing program

Q. How do I register?

Registration forms will be available in the participating school office. Return completed forms to the office, ATTN: School Pool Coordinator. Once you are school pooling, let TBARTA/BACS know by filling out a School Pool survey.

Q. If I cannot be a driver in a school pool (carpool), can I still participate?

Yes, everyone can participate. You can make other arrangements with parents like pitching in for gas or arranging rides for other events, times, places, etc.

Q. What happens to my information when I fill out a registration form?

Your information is processed in the TBARTA/BACS' rideshare matching database. All information is kept confidential. Only parents registered in the program see information on their match list about possible school poolers. No information is provided about students.

Q. I am currently in a carpool, why should I register in the School Pool Program?

Every family should register with the program. With more parents registered, there is a better chance for a match. Just because you are on a match list, doesn't mean you are obligated to school pool. However, the match list can provide an important back up if your current situation changes, or if you suddenly need to know which parents live nearby to arrange to get your student to school.

Q. What if my son or daughter needs to go to soccer practice, grandma's house or drama class after school?

When setting up a school pool (carpool) with a parent, you can make individual arrangements on where the children will go after school.

Q. If I am already registered but I have moved, how do I update my information?

Call TBARTA/BACS at (800) 998-7433 to update your information. Be sure to mention that you are a School Pool parent and the name of your school.