

CHOOSE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Alternatives to Driving

Before deciding to drive your child to school, please seriously consider these alternatives:

- Walking
- Biking or rolling
- Public Transportation

If your child is unable to walk, bike, roll, or take transit to school safely, consider joining a group of neighbors and commuting together. Walking School Buses, Bike Trains, and Transit Groups can meet at a pre-determined location and time every morning and commute to school together with a rotating adult supervisor.

The benefits:

- Helps your child meet the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity
- Decreases air pollution in the school community
- Connects neighbors and builds community

For questions and further support, please contact srts@smcoe.org



San Mateo County Office of Education



SAN MATEO COUNTY
**Transportation
Authority**



SAFE ROUTES, HAPPY COMMUTES

Getting kids to school safely



San Mateo County Office of Education

DECREASE CONGESTION

Tips for Drivers

While it would be great if all students could walk or bike to school, it's just not feasible for all families. If your family falls into this category, consider the following options:

Park and Walk

- Drop your child off at an alternate location and allow them to walk the rest of the way, or walk with them.

Carpool

- Carpooling can significantly decrease traffic congestion during drop off and pick up times.

Finding Carpool Candidates

- Utilize school communication channels such as bulletin boards, newsletters, or online forums to express your interest in carpooling.
- Attend school events or parent-teacher meetings to network with other parents. Face-to-face interactions can be effective in building connections and finding carpool partners.

HOW TO USE THE DROP-OFF ZONE

- Make sure students are ready to exit the vehicle when you pull up to the curb. Students should exit the vehicle on the curbside only.
- Load backpacks on the car floor beside students so that they can easily exit the vehicle with their backpacks in hand.
- There is no parking in the drop-off zone. Please remain in the driver's seat at all times.
- If you would like to help your child out of the car and walk them to class, please pull into a parking spot or park and walk.
- If you park in a school lot, make sure the space is not reserved for school staff. Never park along a red or white curb.
- Be mindful of other drivers in the drop-off zone. Do not block other drivers from exiting after they have dropped off their students.
- Drive slowly and carefully around schools and in parking lots. Remember that pedestrians, especially small children, can be difficult to see.

BEHAVIORS TO AVOID

Please do all you can to avoid these dangerous behaviors.

- Do not drop your child off at an intersection or in the street.
- Do not allow your child to jaywalk.
- Do not block the driveways of residents in the school neighborhood.
- Do not leave your engine on while waiting. Idling causes unnecessary air pollution, which impacts community health and the environment.
- Do not look at your phone while driving.
- Do not speed in the parking lot

Even if the drop-off zone is crowded, it is better to use it than to drop your child off in an unsafe way. It is better to be late to school than to be unsafe and end up in an accident.

If you notice that your child is consistently late because of a crowded drop-off zone, consider leaving a little earlier, parking and walking, or carpooling.