



The School District of Palm Beach County Centralizes Activity Fund Management with SchoolCash

The Challenge

With almost 170,000 students spread over an area roughly the size of Delaware, The School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) has faced its share of challenges in managing activity funds effectively. Prior to 2008, varying solutions and processes that were employed by bookkeepers and other staff members across its 179 schools were not making things easier.

While software applications were used by some schools to record and report activity fund transactions, these disparate solutions were installed on-premises with data stored locally. This meant that district staff had to phone, email, or visit schools to gather information. At other schools, Excel spreadsheets and paper records were used to manage funds. This lack of consistency and accessibility posed issues for District staff as they had limited visibility into each school's day-to-day record keeping which created challenges if activity funds data was required in advance of monthly report cycles.

"We reached a point where we identified the need for comprehensive cloud-based platform," recalled Marysue Bean, Financial Applications Manager, SDPBC. "With all of our schools on a single platform, we could make activity funds information available in real-time for more timely and informed decision-making."

SDPBC also wanted a platform that made it easier for parents in their school community to purchase items online.

"The ideal solution would allow parents to make payments for their children's activities – including meal plan payments – in a single transaction while having an integrated back-end accounting solution that could support it without any duplication of effort," said Leanne Evans, Secretary Treasurer, SDPBC.

The District had an ambitious timeline for the implementation and wanted to ensure that all 179 schools would be live with the new solution in time for the upcoming school year.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Established in 1909, the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) is responsible for educating over 192,000 students in the southeastern part of Florida. It is the tenth-largest public school district in the United States and the third largest school district in Florida. SDPBC operates a total of 180 schools with over 27,000 employees and 45,000 volunteers.

Results

In 2008, the District selected the SchoolCash platform – a comprehensive, cloud-based platform that automates the creation, collection, and management of activity funds. The solution met their requirements and could be deployed within the District’s ambitious timeline. SchoolCash was successfully implemented within 12-weeks, thanks to strong collaboration between KEV Group and the District.

While it’s been over 13 years since the District implemented SchoolCash, they continue to derive value from the solution. “SchoolCash has helped us achieve greater transparency by allowing the District to run reports using real-time data,” said Ms. Bean. “This has been critical during the pandemic because bookkeepers are performing additional duties, which pulls them away from their desks more frequently than before.”

The District is leveraging the online payments functionality to drive a new district-level cashless initiative that encourages parents to pay for fees and items online to reduce collecting physical cash at schools, critically important during the pandemic. Recently, it moved payments for its high school student athletic insurance online. In 2018/19, this generated 555,465 transactions through SchoolCash Online, while raising awareness with parents about the benefits of contactless payments.

Thanks, in part, to workshops for bookkeepers facilitated by their KEV Client Success Manager and a social media campaign aimed at parents, online transactions have grown steadily. In the 2019/20 school year, over \$33M in activity funds was collected through SchoolCash Online. In fact, over 3.8M total transactions have been processed through SchoolCash Online since its launch date.

Recently, several schools began using SchoolCash FormsPro in conjunction with SchoolCash Online to manage their registration and payment process for before and after care programs. Now, parents can register and pay for childcare services through a smart form integrated into the process. Many have also adopted SchoolCash Express, which gives non-administrative staff – such as teachers, coaches, and PTA members – the ability to create and manage the activities they oversee.

“It’s another example of how SchoolCash gives parents, bookkeepers, and district staff real-time control and visibility over all transactions,” said Ms. Bean.

“SchoolCash has helped us achieve greater transparency by allowing the district to run reports that capture real-time data.”

Palm Beach County by the Numbers



K-12 Schools Served
in The District

179



Funds
Managed Annually

\$8.6 MILLION



Annual SchoolCash Online
Transactions in 2020-21

\$1.3 MILLION



Parent
Adoption Rate

68%

“SchoolCash is simple and easy to use. I recommend it for any school district that is looking for an integrated school funds management solution.”

— **Leanne Evans**

Secretary Treasurer, The School District of Palm Beach County



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KEV Group provides the only unified school activity and district fee management solution that enables K-12 schools to manage every dollar accurately, consistently, and efficiently. By seamlessly integrating and automating all activity fund management processes, the SchoolCash platform provides real-time visibility and control over how districts and schools create, collect, manage, track, and reconcile school activity and district fees. Parents benefit from an easy-to-use solution that offers convenience and supports all payment types. More than 17,500 schools across North America rely on SchoolCash to manage over \$3 billion in activity funds annually. Visit kevgroup.com to learn more.