



Toronto Catholic District School Board Leverages SchoolCash to Transition to Cashless Schools

The Challenge

Fuelled by a vision of cashless schools, the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) decided to automate its activity fund management system in 2017.

Processes the TCDSB previously relied upon that required school staff to manually collect, handle, and process funds inspired the need for change. This approach proved to be time-consuming and error prone and didn't have the required audit controls. Collection processes also differed from school to school, leaving the board office with inconsistent tracking and reporting, which resulted in a lack of transparency.

Students carrying cash to school also presented security concerns.

"When students carry cash, it invites the possibility of the money being misplaced, stolen, or turning students into targets for bullying," explained Lucy LePera, Senior Financial Analyst, TCDSB. "To address the concerns of parents and staff, we wanted to reduce the amount of cash going missing between home and school."

An additional challenge was the sporadic use of Point-of-Sale (POS) terminals at select schools that were used to collect activity fees. While convenient, these terminals did not automatically reconcile

transactions with the school's general ledger. This meant that administrative staff had to perform this task manually, which was unproductive and posed risks for misappropriation.

To overcome these challenges, TCDSB identified the need for a solution that would streamline administrative processes and mitigate risks associated with cash-handling tasks. Ultimately, the Board selected the SchoolCash platform from KEV Group based on a recommendation from the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM)—a trusted not-for-profit sourcing partner.

ABOUT TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is an English-language, public-separate school board serving the Toronto region in Ontario. As one of the largest school boards in Canada, TCDSB educates over 90,000 students from K-12 across 196 schools, employing close to 10,000 teachers and administrative and support staff. Each year, the Board manages over \$28M in school generated funds.

SchoolCash—a comprehensive solution that provides real-time visibility and control over how schools create, collect, manage, track, and reconcile activity funds—addressed the Board’s requirements. With a fully integrated school-level accounting system, online payments, and virtual point-of-sale, the platform gave the Board an opportunity to transition to cashless schools.

The Solution

TCDSB implemented SchoolCash’s accounting and online solutions to all of its 196 schools in three phases from April 2017 to February 2018. To support the implementation, KEV provided extensive training opportunities, including a two-day session for TCDSB district and school staff.

TCDSB has made substantial progress on their journey towards creating a cashless community, collecting close to \$15M in online transactions backed by a board-wide SchoolCash Online adoption rate of 60%. The fact that nearly 40% of its schools feature adoption rates of 50% or greater is a strong indicator that positive momentum is building within school communities. As well, POS terminals have been replaced in favour of online payments that automatically reconcile and deposit fees into a school’s bank account.

“SchoolCash has greatly reduced the amount of time and effort required to

manage activity funds,” said Ms. LePera. “This reduction in administrative effort allows staff to devote more time to higher-value activities.”

The SchoolCash platform has also improved district-level visibility over school-level transactions, improved reporting, and enhanced security.

“With more parents making online payments through SchoolCash Online, fewer students and staff have to stow cash in unsecured locations like backpacks and envelopes,” said Ms. LePera. “Parents and staff can rest easy knowing payments are safe and secure.”

Furthermore, SchoolCash has helped TCDSB bolster their fundraising initiatives. Using SchoolCash Express, TCDSB staff and Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) members can now directly create their own sales and fundraising events and run their own reports.

“Also, we observed that SchoolCash Online has made it easier for parents and guests to donate through school and district websites,” said Weronika Waszewski, Officer, School Banking Specialist, TCDSB.

Training has also played a big role.

“To foster cashless transactions, we train staff on-site, and instructional videos are also distributed to complement the training and resources supplied by KEV,” said Lesley McDowell, SAP/KEV Training and Support Officer, TCDSB.

“This has been invaluable in achieving widespread adoption internally,” added Gloria Zappavigna SAP/KEV Training and Support Officer, TCDSB.

Other initiatives include friendly classroom competitions and district-level contests and setting up laptops near school offices to assist parents and guardians.

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TCDSB At A Glance



Schools in the District

196



Funds Managed Annually

\$28 MILLION



Parent Adoption Rate

57%



Total Amount of Online
Payment Transactions

\$7.5 MILLION

Goals for 2021/2022



Parent Adoption Rate

75%



Total Amount of Online
Payment Transactions

\$16.8 MILLION

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— **Lucy LePera**

Senior Financial Analyst, TCDSB



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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 22,000 schools across North America rely on SchoolCash to manage over \$4 billion in activity funds annually. Visit kevgroup.com to learn more.