



Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) was searching for an all-in-one school activity funds management solution that was offered in French. This search ultimately led them to the SchoolCash platform.

Amélie Gosselin-Charron, Sonya Gervais and Narjisse Doghmi from CEPEO were part of the selection and implementation process and were hands on with training the bookkeepers on utilizing the systems.

Amélie, Sonya and Narjisse took some time to answer some questions for us about their experience with SchoolCash so far.

What processes/solutions did your district employ to manage school activity funds prior to adopting the SchoolCash platform?

Before SchoolCash, we had an online payment system offered by a local programmer who worked with two other school boards.

What factors led the district to adopt the SchoolCash platform?

We made the transition to Aspen for our Student Information System (SIS) and needed a solution that integrated with this SIS. We also liked the idea of linking the online payment system to school-level accounting to create a better workflow and improved transparency.

Why did the district choose our platform? How did it differ from competing solutions? What opportunities did the district identify with our platform?

The other platforms that we looked at did not offer a solution where school-level accounting was fully integrated with the online payment system. This is part of the reason why we went with SchoolCash. We were also looking to have a French-language system: that was a non-negotiable for our board. In addition, SchoolCash provides ongoing support and offers several useful

By the Numbers



Number of Schools

37



Number of Students

17,909

SchoolCash Solutions

- SchoolCash Management
- SchoolCash Online
- SchoolCash Forms
- Lunchbox

complementary products including SchoolCash Forms and Lunchbox for our schools. However, what ultimately tipped the scales was their strong market presence.

What was your approach to communicating the implementation to staff and training them? In what ways did KEV support set up, roll out and promotion of the new system?

We communicated by memo to explain the introduction of a new system, supported by senior management. We did virtual meetings to present the new system and answer their questions or concerns.

Training and virtual workshops were offered on each module we decided to use, and we created a user guide to detail the procedures while adhering to CEPEO policies.

KEV assisted us in our implementation and the communication to our schools by providing us with drafts and participated in the training of the bookkeepers.

In what ways has SchoolCash improved the way the district manages activity funds? How has it helped improve productivity or saved time?

From the perspective of the Finance Department, the fact that we no longer have to manage the payment provider is a plus for us. The link between SchoolCash Online and SchoolCash Accounting makes accounting for operations significantly less cumbersome for our secretaries.

The additional modules such as Lunchbox made such a difference for us since our schools were responsible for managing their lunch programs (ordering from the supplier, follow-up with them, payment, etc.). SchoolCash Forms has allowed us to eliminate the use of paper forms in our schools and streamlines the whole process.

How has SchoolCash helped the district improve transparency?

In terms of accessibility, it's much easier to do the required verifications directly from our central office, which means less travel to the schools. It is also much more efficient.

How has the district helped drive adoption? Can you provide examples of things that schools have done to increase adoption?

The support of senior management has been important to our success. We have provided tools to assist the bookkeepers in the change, like letters to parents to explain how to enroll. We have been following up with the schools on a regular basis and send them their adoption rates to encourage them to get parents to enroll.

How did you engage with your parents/guardians to use SchoolCash Online? What initiatives did your schools use?

We encouraged schools to feature popular products on SchoolCash Online to motivate parents/guardians to create their accounts. We have sent letters to parents notifying them of the change and explained step-by-step how to register. We also had the advantage of having a previous online payment system so parents were used to making payments online.

Can you share any feedback you have received from bookkeepers, principals, teachers, parents/guardians, etc.?

Some were very enthusiastic and found the system very advantageous. Others were more resistant to change but with support, they became comfortable with the system and began to appreciate its usefulness.

We understand that you have made the use of Lunchbox mandatory in your schools. Can you explain to us why you made this decision?

Our secretaries have a lot of tasks to accomplish, and the management of meals became very heavy for them. When we were introduced to Lunchbox, we saw it as a solution to help them. For parents, it's much more user-friendly and they can login in with their SchoolCash Online credentials.

Your board has also started using SchoolCash Forms. What type of forms have you created using and what benefits have you seen in using this product?

The advantage is that it's far easier for parents to complete forms, and especially when they're paying for fees that require a form. It also allows us to have a report with all the parameters requested on the form as well as the signature of the parent. We use it for parental authorization for outings, general consents and certain forms personalized according to the needs of the schools.

What advice would you give to a district that is considering implementing the SchoolCash Platform?

Have a good team for the implementation, communicate regularly to your schools, involve them in the decision-making process, and properly document the needs and expectations of the system.



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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](https://www.kevgroup.com) to learn more.