



Klein Independent School District Chooses SchoolCash to Improve Accountability and Productivity While Reducing Risk

Klein Independent School District (Klein ISD) is responsible for educating over 50,000 students in almost 50 schools across a geographical area in Harris County, Texas, U.S. that covers 88 square miles. Established in 1938, Klein ISD teaches students ranging from early childhood/pre-kindergarten education through grade 12 in elementary, intermediate, and high schools. Over 7,000 teachers and additional staff are employed by the District on a full-time equivalent basis.

The Challenge

In March 2007, Klein ISD identified a need to improve its approach to managing school activity funds. The inspiration behind the initiative – led by Gloria Frank, former Activity Funds Manager, Klein ISD – wasn't a significant event, such as fraud or a failed audit, that had adversely affected the District. Rather, Ms. Frank and her team sought to prevent a potential incident involving school activity fund mismanagement from negatively impacting Klein ISD.

A solution was required that reduced risk and improved accountability, while complementing Klein ISD's history of superior achievement in financial reporting and controls. Ms. Frank and her team began evaluating and researching their options for improvement with clear goals in mind.

Klein ISD had four main objectives:

- Standardizing school finance and reports
- Reducing the amount of onsite cash moving through their schools
- Improving school-to-home communication
- Adopting a system that would allow them to achieve their long-standing commitment to excellence in fiscal management, financial integrity, and transparency

ABOUT KLEIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Klein Independent School District (Klein ISD) is responsible for educating over 53,000 students in 50 schools across a geographical area in Harris County, Texas that covers 88 square miles. Established in 1938, Klein ISD teaches students ranging from early childhood/pre-kindergarten education through grade 12 in elementary, intermediate, and high schools. Over 7,000 teachers and additional staff are employed by the District on a full-time equivalent basis.

Following a rigorous evaluation of numerous software providers, Klein ISD determined that SchoolCash from KEV Group was best suited to address its needs. They also determined that the solution would allow them to communicate information to school and district staff, students, parents, and the larger community more directly and efficiently.

The KEV Customer Success team worked with Klein ISD to share best practices, establish deliverable timelines, and gather feedback throughout the implementation of the solution into the District's processes. KEV's solution also included change management, tailored implementation, and customized school training to make the transition seamless at every level.

The Solution

Automations in school-level accounting yielded immediate benefits. SchoolCash allowed Klein ISD to streamline activity management processes and provided the opportunity to standardize across all schools in the District. This advancement—combined with the solution's robust reconciliation and itemized reporting features—helped to improve accountability, mitigate risks, and transparency through real-time reporting.

"Automating our school activity fund management processes was in keeping with our long-standing commitment to excellence in fiscal management and financial integrity," commented Tara Tims, Activity Funds Manager at Klein ISD.

“Adding required district-level fees as online payments through SchoolCash was a tipping point in terms of adoption.”

Klein ISD has received the highest rating under the state's Schools Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) financial accountability rating system for 17 consecutive years based on analysis of student, staff, budgetary, and actual financial data reported.

Driving Contactless Payment Adoption

In 2011, the District launched its 1:1 Computer to Student Initiative through SchoolCash Online. A successful pilot program in select high schools led to the program's expansion to intermediate students. Custom forms created with SchoolCash were introduced to collect information when parents/guardians pay fees. This replaced paper forms and reduced data entry errors.

"SchoolCash has given my department the student level accounting required for the 1:1 program, and the built-in parent permission form has enabled Klein to communicate critical information to parents," said Katie Gentry, former 1:1 Coordinator, Klein ISD.

This success inspired the District to survey principals about their interest in adopting online payments for course fees. 85% agreed to participate, validating the District's desire to expand the program. The District added required fees to SchoolCash Online, which boosted adoption rates by 13% in 2017/18. And the trend continued. By 2020/21, 33,300 parents/guardians were using SchoolCash, resulting in a 71% parent adoption rate.

"Adding required district-level fees as online payments through SchoolCash was a tipping point in terms of adoption," said Ms. Tims. "We also noticed a big difference in an engagement with SchoolCash when we began working with the schools to create custom forms on-demand."

Also, allowing teachers to post items for online payments has reduced the amount of cash and checks collected in classrooms. In 2020/21, over 45% of fees collected across the District were no longer being managed by teachers.

Overall, Klein ISD is thrilled with the results. Since 2012, over 625,000 transactions have processed more than \$49 million in school activity funds, and close to 50% of all fees collected are now being protected from fraud.

Klein ISD At A Glance



Amount Collected
Online Since 2015

\$13.5M



% Of Activity Funds
Protected from Fraud

50%



Number of Parents
Using SchoolCash

33,000



Parent/Guardian
Participation Rate

71%

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— **Tara Tims**

Activity Funds Manager, Klein ISD



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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, our solutions provide real-time visibility and control over how districts and schools create, collect, manage, track, and reconcile school activity and district fees. Parents/guardians benefit from an easy-to-use solution that offers convenience and supports all payment types. More than 25,500 schools across North America rely on KEV to manage over \$4 billion in activity funds annually, and over 40% are members of the Council of the Great City Schools. Visit kevgroup.com to learn more.