



Savannah Chatham County Public Schools System (SCCPSS) – based in Chatham County, Georgia – serves more than 38,000 students across 55 schools. SCCPSS has been using the SchoolCash platform since June of 2019.

Michelle D. Jackson, Staff Accountant and School Activity Funds Coordinator, first experienced SchoolCash upon joining the district's accounting department in early 2022, having first worked as a bookkeeper in one of the district's Charter Schools, where she managed all of the school's activity fund transactions and reconciliations herself. She tells us what a delight it was – and continues to be – to use SchoolCash.

What is your role with Savannah Chatham County Public School System and what were your first impressions of SchoolCash?

My role as Staff Accountant mainly entails coordinating the district's School Activity Funds management and compliance, as part of a lean team comprised of a backup accountant, district controller – my supervisor – and the assistant CFO, all of whom are big proponents of SchoolCash. I work extensively with the Administrative Secretaries (ASs) at each of the schools, who are hands-on with SchoolCash, doing the transactions typically affiliated with activity funds.

When I took over this position, I appreciated the series of one-on-one meetings that KEV personnel scheduled with me, via MS Teams, as it got me up to speed quickly. Honestly, I don't know how the district managed funds before SchoolCash, but I can imagine how hard it would have been. SchoolCash has eliminated cash transactions and all the problems related to collecting and managing cash, at almost half of our campuses.

What are the main uses for SchoolCash and what do they involve?

We use SchoolCash for every aspect of activity fund management which includes collecting fees, recording them, reconciling them, etc. These fees include things like senior dues for student exams, courses, and payments for their Standardized Admission Tests (SAT), along with all manner of athletics. Fees are also needed for technology, senior prom, field trips, graduation, and cheerleading competitions.

By the Numbers



Number of Schools

55



Number of Students

38,000

SchoolCash Solutions

- SchoolFunds Online
- SchoolCash Accounting

However, where SchoolCash really shines as a time-saving, single version of the truth, is in the whole area of audits – both in facilitating occasional spot audits and in ensuring that our external auditors don't have any findings when they do the annual audit.

My main intent upon arriving for a spot audit is to ensure that processes have been followed and are in compliance with our policies and laws. For example, I can see a check payable to XYX Company along with all the backup information associated with that check; the invoice, forms showing that the money was collected and deposited and whether the Principal signed off. Sometimes this will signal a need for further AS training, so I open up SchoolCash and walk them through the processes they may need help with. This ensures that the documentation that may be requested later by the external auditor will be there.

Related to the annual external audit, the auditing firm sends me a list of the schools that are being audited – entirely on a random basis – as well as samples of the activities they will be looking for. These include actual check numbers, deposit numbers, etc., all of which I have access to instantly with SchoolCash. I send a quick email to the schools to be audited, asking for the required information. I'm then able to print a report that verifies their information and upload it for the auditors. SchoolCash makes all of our jobs easier and information verifiable: for the AS team, the external auditors and myself.

Can you tell us a little bit about your experience with implementation and ongoing support from KEV Group?

I wasn't present for the implementation in 2019, having joined in 2022. But if the ongoing, high

level of support that KEV Group provides is any indication and from what I've been told by my team, implementation went well.

Two major features of SchoolCash – its user-friendliness and real-time processing – make it intuitive to learn and use. But when we've needed support, we've gotten the answers within 24 hours of asking.

To further ensure our admins' success, we have KEV University, which provides us with a series of good training videos that I send to new staff, which shows them – step-by-step – everything they need to know. I can look at transcripts, see which courses they've started and finished, and if I have a secretary that is struggling with, for example, time-to-reconciliation every month, I can engage them with a specific 'reconciliation' video. It's working out well and keeping everyone up-to-speed with the platform.

What advice would you give other districts when choosing to implement SchoolCash?

I would urge districts to carefully consider the roles, responsibilities and general oversight of who will manage the collection and processing of funds. Develop clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all of the stakeholders, mapped to what SchoolCash can do for them. In doing so, the district will be creating a culture of trust and transparency. And if you're the lead on helping school staff, be proactive in demonstrating the benefits of process and the SchoolCash platform, in combination with KEV Group staff.



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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.