

The Ysleta Independent School District (ISD) provides pre-K through high school education at 48 campuses in El Paso, Texas. Ysleta ISD started using the SchoolCash platform in 2021.

Fernando Ramirez is the Accountant at Ysleta ISD and a parent of two students in the district. Ever since he helped implement SchoolCash at Ysleta ISD, he has been in a unique position to observe how it has streamlined financial operations, increased teaching time and provided easy-to-use benefits for students and parents alike.



What is your role with Ysleta ISD and what were your first impressions of SchoolCash?

I've been in my current role as the Accountant at Ysleta ISD for five years. The SchoolCash platform made a great first impression on me.

By 2021, our campuses were using several different apps to collect payments electronically. The district had no control over those apps, and we didn't know where the money was being deposited. We were especially concerned about our seven high schools because so many transactions occur on those campuses. We had to find an accounting solution that all 48 schools in the district could adopt.

After doing our research, we chose SchoolCash. It was easy to manage, easy to use, and it offered a lot of options for our clerks, who are responsible for administering payments at each school. We definitely needed a solution like this.

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

Our biggest challenge was the massive amount of cash that was flowing through the district—about \$2 million per year. Schools were accepting a large number of cash payments for student IDs, library fees, food sales, fundraising campaigns, and merchandise at small campus stores, among other things. Teachers and clerks used to spend a lot of time creating lists of students and collecting money. Here at the central office, we needed two employees just to count the cash and channel deposits into the bank. It was a huge investment of resources.

We used SchoolCash to replace cash payments with electronic transactions, wherever possible. KEV provided 80 point-of-sale (POS) devices for processing cashless payments at each school, so SchoolCash could track items purchased in-person, as well as at the online store. Being able to accept credit card payments is a

By the Numbers



Number of Schools

48



Number of Students

55,000

SchoolCash Solutions

- SchoolCash Online
- SchoolCash Accounting

huge improvement. My kids never carry cash to school. One of our high schools went completely cashless and it's been a great experience. Now, with less money to handle, our teachers can spend more time teaching and our clerks can focus on other tasks.

We have also used the SchoolCash platform to minimize paperwork. Our staff fill out far fewer forms and deposit slips than before. We can see all transactions online, which provides transparency across the whole district and prevents fraud. When we need to know something, we just log in and pull the information. We can run reports to see the collections and bank deposits—and every payment gets recorded correctly, in case of an audit. With SchoolCash, we can control all the transactions.

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

Our team met with KEV Group weekly during the SchoolCash implementation. Every time we gave KEV a challenge, they'd come up with a solution right away. They completely customized the system according to our needs. For example, when we explained how we liked to handle clubs and campus funds separately at each school, KEV created individual accounts for those in SchoolCash. The implementation didn't take very long at all. It was easy to build the website and set up the accounts. KEV helped with everything.

We have a monthly meeting with our KEV Customer Success Manager to review data and performance statistics. It's great to always have someone there who can help us when we need it.

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

Educate clerks upfront on the full capabilities of SchoolCash. Our clerks initially thought of the solution as a glorified credit card machine instead of an entire online platform for managing school activity funds. During the first 6–12 months, we worked hard teaching them how to establish an online store, set up QR codes, and list items for sale.

Also, make sure that families have the support they need to get started with SchoolCash. Registration is very easy, but parents sometimes need guidance on how to set themselves up in the system. We've found that most set-up problems can be solved with a quick phone call.

“SchoolCash saves time and work for our clerks. We have more control over collections, which is very important because we were collecting \$2 million per year in cash from our campuses. I would recommend SchoolCash to any district.”

— Fernando Ramirez
Accountant



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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.