

The cost of cash versus online payments

Handling cash costs our district thousands of extra dollars



The cost of handling cash ranges between 4.7% and 15%.*

- If we take the midpoint, it costs our district \$9,000 for every \$100,000 in cash received
- If this seems high, consider salary and expenses devoted to accepting cash, counting it, providing change, re-counting in the office, preparing for deposit, traveling to the bank for deposit, or paying for armored truck transport. Also consider liability risks, plus personal security concerns for staff members depositing a large amount of cash.

*Estimates are from IHL Group Research (2018), Square (2020) and Square Bottom Line (2020), and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) – Occupational Fraud (2024)

Counting cash takes hundreds of hours



- It takes 542 hours to process \$100,000 in cash received.* If at peak times in the year, a teacher or coach handles \$1,000 in cash a month for fees/field trips/etc, that's 5.42 hours: at least a half day per person per month.
- Multiply the 5.42 hours per peak month by the number of teachers/coaches/librarians. Multiply again by the number of office staff members double-checking the counts. All of this time is NOT spent on teaching or on the student needs.

*Estimates are from Square Bottom Line (2020)

Liquidity of cash makes it more vulnerable to loss



- If 5% of cash is lost, we lose \$5,000 for every \$100,000 in collected cash.*
- This estimate does not consider any legal and reputational costs incurred as a result, which could run in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

*Estimates are from Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (2024)

SchoolCash Online can help!



- With more and more people used to paying online in recent years, SchoolCash Online's ease of use for parents can be a compelling argument to shift to an online payment method.
- Online payments flow directly to school bank accounts. No counting required!
- At the same time, the SchoolCash system can easily accommodate parents who still wish to pay in cash.