



## ANGLOPHONE WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
1135 Prospect Street • Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3B9 • [www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca](http://www.asd-w.nbed.nb.ca)

Good Afternoon,

**The School Cash Online software program has been available at your school since 2016, the program we use through the KEV Group has been going through a system wide change. A new pricing model has been created and the Anglophone West School District will adopt this model with a go live of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021!**

### **What will this mean for the School?**

For items with a fixed cost such as school t-shirts or yearbooks, the items will be approximately 4% (+ tax) higher due to the convenience fee. However, for items that are a service (e.g., drama tickets or athletic events), schools could choose to post those items with a slightly lowered base price to account for the convenience fee. When the school considers the big picture of all the school items and fees that a parent pays for a school year, it may turn out that the net impact on parents across all item types is negligible.

### **Why is there a convenience fee on each item?**

SchoolCash Online offers parents the ability to make contactless online payments for school fees and items easily and securely. This convenience is now expected by many parents who use their tablets and phones for a wide variety of their everyday purchasing needs. Credit card transactions have a cost; to cover the credit card merchant fees, the SchoolCash Online system applies a small convenience fee automatically to each item.

### **Why is the convenience fee paid by the parents?**

To some degree, SchoolCash Online mirrors the retail environment, where convenience fees are factored into pricing—when someone makes a purchase at a store or online, they pay what appears to be a set price, but this price is usually slightly inflated to cover the fees. SchoolCash Online operates the same way.

### **What does “rounding” mean?**

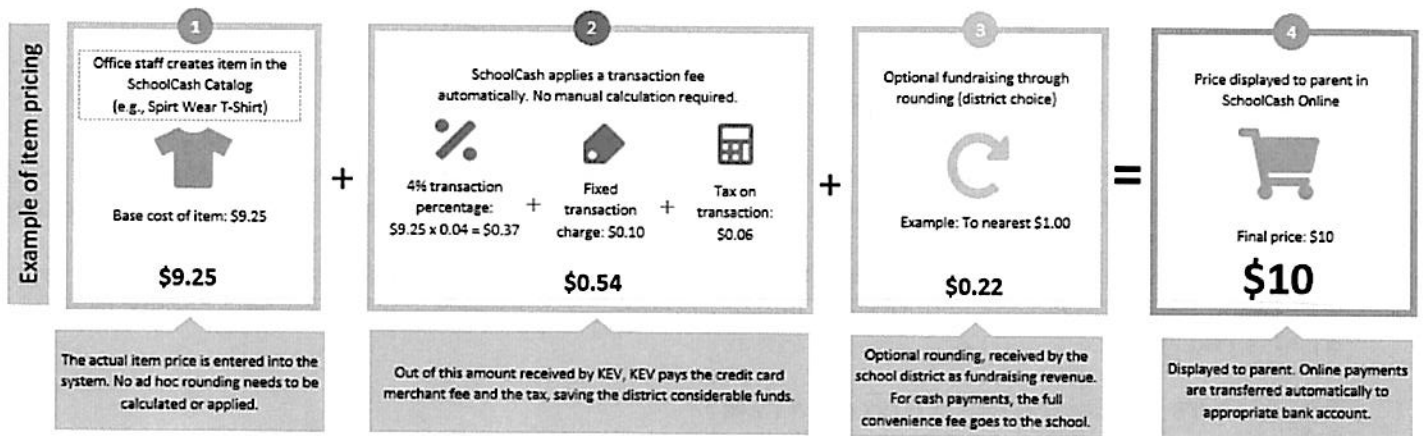
When SchoolCash Online is implemented, the school district can decide whether to implement rounding and how much to apply. For example, the district could enable rounding and set it to the nearest \$0.25. If an item's cost plus the convenience fee totals \$4.30, it would be rounded to \$4.50. The district receives the \$0.20 as a revenue in a dedicated accounting category. AWSD will use this amount to offset the cost of the SCO program that is currently available at no cost to your schools. \*Anglophone West School District will round all items to the nearest \$0.25.

### **Why are credit card purchases and cash purchases treated the same?**

Particularly because of Covid-19, a “contactless mandate” is important for everyone's safety. It is important to incentivize online payments: it reduces the number of people in the school paying cash, reduces the time spent by teachers and admin staff counting cash, and reduces risk of lost cash. SchoolCash Online applies the same convenience fee to all items regardless of purchasing method: it simplifies matters for the parents (i.e., they always see only one price), it does not incentivize cash.

## Who sets the price for items?

The admin staff who create items in SchoolCash specify the price when they “create” the item. For fixed-cost items, they would specify the actual cost of the item; the system will automatically calculate the convenience fee and add it to the price displayed to parents (along with rounding). This frees the staff from doing ad hoc rounding to make the numbers “even”, and it creates proper accounting for the entire process.



Thank you,

**Marion Chisholm**

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Excited. Involved.  
Prepared