

Advanced Payments for Advanced Placement: MySchoolBucks for School Fee Management & Payments

CASE STUDY 

When a school district in New York needed an easier way to collect Advanced Placement exam fees and registrations at their High School, they turned to Heartland School Solutions' MySchoolBucks online payment portal as their solution.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, a New York school district sought a solution to help reduce the amount of paperwork related to registrations and fee collections for Advanced Placement (AP) course exams. Specifically, administrators responsible for course and program development wanted a web-based solution that would allow parents to select, register their student(s), and complete payment for AP exams, all from one website. The solution would provide reports showing registered students for each exam and detailed information for reconciliation.

At the time, the school district was offering MySchoolBucks to its families as a way to fund their students' meal accounts online with credit and debit cards. Parents at the school district had embraced the program for its ease of use and convenience, with nearly 30% using the system to prepay for their students' lunches.

THE SOLUTION

Given the high rate of parent usage within the school district for meal payments, administrators explored expanding MySchoolBucks to include MySchoolBucks School Store for AP exam registrations and fees.

The AP Exam Store was created in early 2013. The district offered registration and payment for more than seven AP exams through the MSB School Store, including Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature, Physics, Statistics and U.S. History.

THE RESULTS

Once the AP Exam Store was activated, the district processed nearly 700 transactions, totaling over \$31,000 in online payments. Additionally, MySchoolBucks' reporting allowed administrators to closely monitor enrollment and payment remittance for students taking AP exams, reducing the time and effort previously spent on exam management.

Recognizing the incredible volume of processing and overall interest of parents in using this service, the high school expanded the use of MySchoolBucks to include driver's education fees, SAT test preparation, SAT exam registration, and instrument rental fees for the school's band. Since the launch of MySchoolBucks School Store, nearly \$100,000 in school-related payments was processed through year end.

Fast Facts

Schools

7

Student Population

5,200

Total Volume

Processed To Date

\$204,378.34

