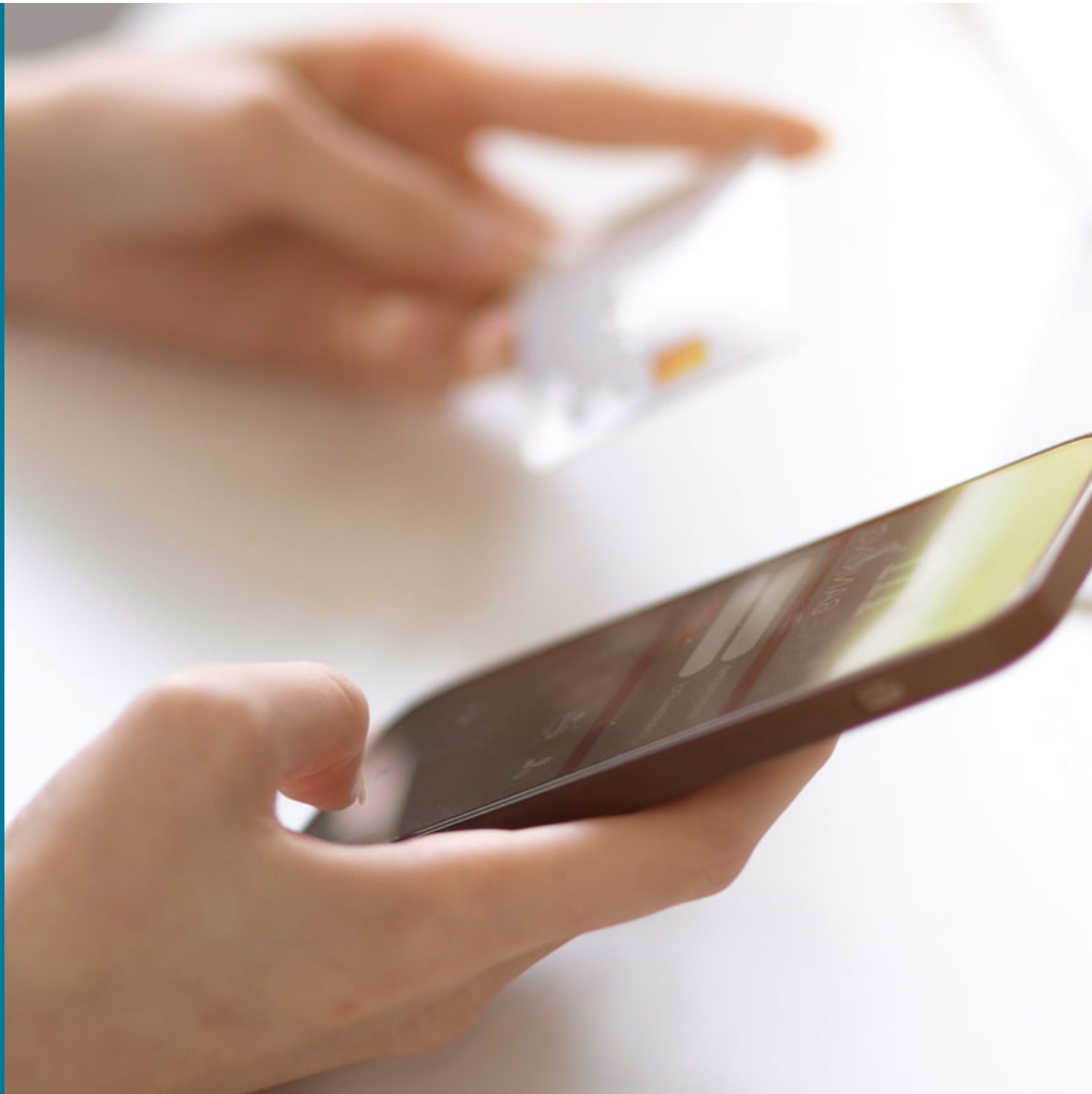


4 Reasons to Choose Digital School Fee Management



What's Inside

Dive in to learn more about why more K-12 districts are turning to digital fees and payments



What's inside this guide

Flip the page to continue or jump directly to the section of your choice. This guide offers the top reasons digital school fee management makes life easier for everybody.

Introduction



Simplifies Payments & Fee Management



Reduces Administrative Burden



Gets Families Engaged



Improves Payments Security



Choosing the Right Payments Solution



Introduction

Many schools already know the convenience and security of digital meal payments for school lunch, breakfast, and snacks. But the majority still rely heavily on cash and checks for other payments. That means lost checks, forgotten cash, and money dropped somewhere between the bus stop and school store turn into late payments, increasing debt, and missed sales.

A digital payment solution built for schools offers an end to all this. With a secure online portal or mobile app, families can pay any school fee and make purchases in a few clicks or taps. [86% of point-of-sale \(POS\) transactions](#) throughout the economy were electronic in 2022. It only makes sense to offer the convenient, cashless experience families prefer for school fees and payments.

Schools and districts can accept digital payments for:

- Field trip payments
- Technology fees
- Yearbook purchases
- Library fees
- Club dues and sports fees
- School store transactions
- Event tickets and fundraisers

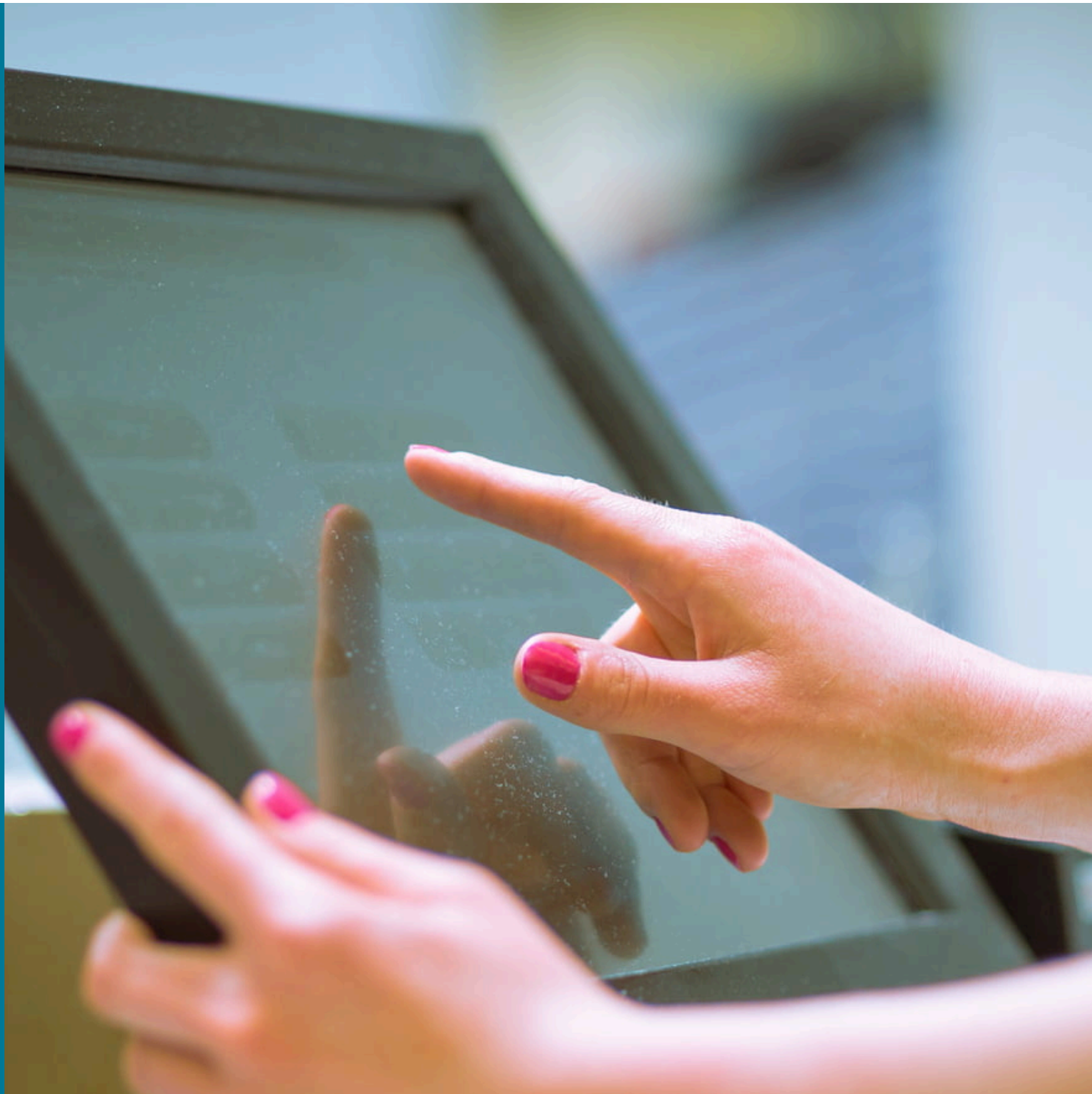
In this interactive guide, we'll look at four reasons schools and districts choose to go cashless.

A 2023 LINQ survey of school nutrition professionals shows that only **two-thirds** of respondents think their school does a good job of providing digital payment solutions for families.

Discover more insights and findings in our *2023 K-12 Nutrition Survey Report*:

GET THE REPORT

1. Simplifies Payments & Fee Management



Digital payments make life easier for everyone

Imagine no more counting change, making bank runs, or writing paper receipts for every payment. A digital fee management system eliminates all of that by giving families an easy, centralized location to pay fees and manage student funds. They get an easy way to pay and your school staff gets a break from processing cash and checks.

[LINQ Connect](#), our all-in-one digital payment solution, lets families load student meal accounts, check balances, pay fees, and shop the school store all

within a single app or online portal. It simplifies operations for schools and gives families an easy, always-on way to handle school business functions.

“Finally! How to Simplify Payments and Make Life Easier for Families”

CHECK IT OUT

Did You Know?

National public school meal debt is [\\$262 million per year?](#)

LINQ Connect gives families an easy way to fund student meal accounts proactively and settle meal debts, and automated alerts inform them when a fee or payment is due. Making payments easier can help schools reduce student meal debt.



2. Reduces Administrative Burden



Take manual fee management off everyone's plate

Budgets are tight, days are short, and K-12 staff members have more than enough on their plates already. Automating school fees with a digital payment solution gives everyone time back to focus on more impactful tasks.

A digital payment app like LINQ Connect handles accounting, receipts, and payment alerts on its own. Since it's all automated, there's no room for human error in transcribing or typing payment amounts or dates. Everything's accurate, available in real time, and reporting takes just a few clicks. That makes compliance and data pulls easier than ever.

“3 Ways Tech Helps K-12 Staff Members Address Resource Constraints”

CHECK IT OUT



3. Gets Families Engaged



Drive engagement with a digital payment solution

Family engagement is key to student classroom success, and it also helps schools operate more efficiently. More engagement means less attempts to contact families for business or permission requests, fewer late payments, and likely a reduction in outstanding meal and school fee debt.

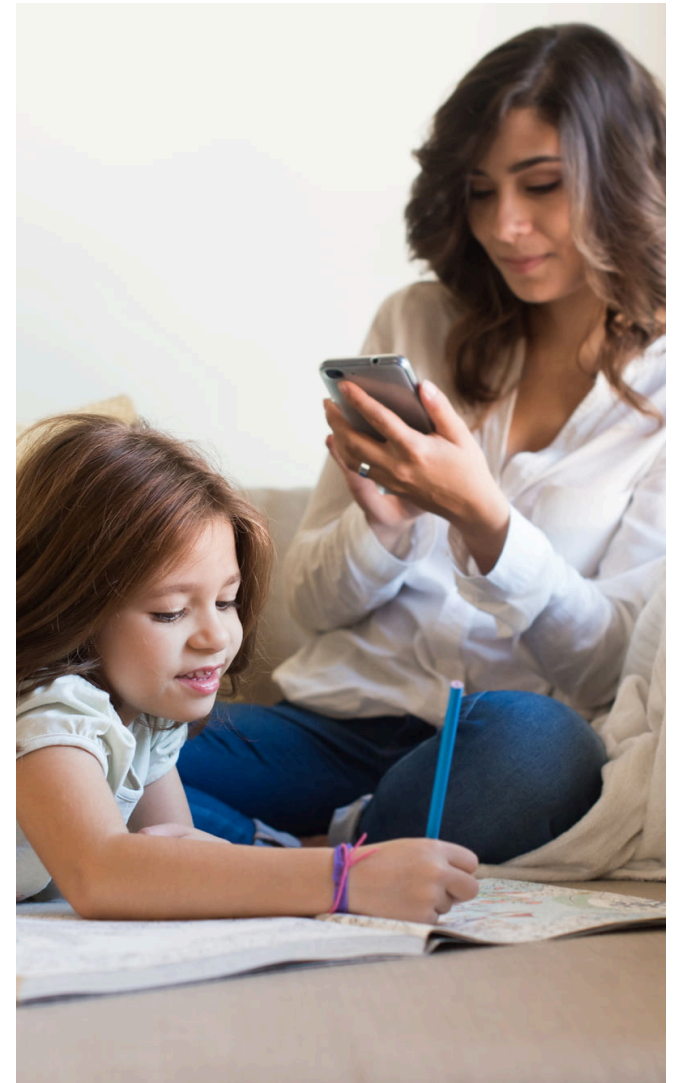
An intuitive digital payment solution like LINQ Connect gives families an easier way to keep up with school fees and payments. Instead of avoiding a headache, they're more likely to settle debts, load meal accounts, and take required actions when it only takes a few taps or clicks.

4 Ways Digital Payments Improve Family Engagement:

- Convenient, stress-free payments
- Automated alerts and messages
- Self-service access to forms and permission slips
- Real-time account and payment status checks

“Getting Families Engaged in School Payment Adoption”

CHECK IT OUT



4. Improves Payment Security





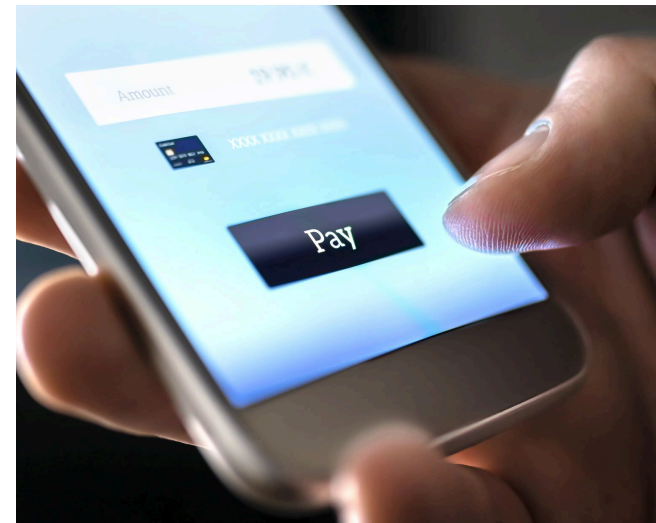
Improve cybersecurity with a modern payment solution

A digital payment solution eliminates risks like lost, damaged, or stolen cash or checks. But what about security in the digital space? The right payment solution provides schools and districts with industry-leading cybersecurity measures, including encryption and multi-step user authentication. This gives families peace-of-mind and safeguards districts against costly and stressful data breaches and fraud.

LINQ Connect and the LINQ Connect mobile app keep sensitive data secure in the cloud. This enables families to confidently enter and save their payment information for faster, easier transactions. Trust helps drive engagement with the app. Every time a family uses the app to make on-time payments, load balances, or read alerts, it saves staff time.

“Cashless Schools and Digital Payment Security”

CHECK IT OUT



Choosing the Right Payment Solution

What to look for when selecting a digital provider



Tips for choosing a secure, reliable payment solution families can trust

A digital payment solution should make life easier for everyone, and it needs to earn the trust of families and district leaders alike. That means considering some key elements before committing to a provider.

Here are a few tips to help you choose the right payment solution for your school or district:

Choose a provider experienced in education

Schools and districts face their own unique challenges. Your digital payment solution needs to account for compliance, cybersecurity, and the flexibility needs specific to K-12 finances. Seek a solution tailor-made for education.

Look for flexible payment options

Families tend to prefer the convenience of making digital payments, but that doesn't mean they all use the same payment method. A payment solution for schools should accommodate credit and debit card payments.

Expect easy payment integration

A payment solution should make processes easier, so integration is vital. Your solution should handle a wide variety of financial processes, including meal account funding, fee payments, and school store purchases. A solution that integrates well across your edtech ecosystem delivers on the promise of worry-free K-12 business management.

“Avoid These 8 Mistakes When Choosing a K-12 Online Payment System”

CHECK IT OUT



Customer Success Story: Going Cashless

Suffolk Public Schools



Cash is no longer king. Here's how one district's going cashless.

Suffolk Public Schools in Virginia has a \$50 cash-on-hand limit. That means staff members routinely make trips to the bank. While their flourishing à la carte program quickly increased revenue, that meant more frequent trips to deposit cash in the bank, eating into K-12 nutrition teams' already busy schedules.

As sales increased, the district needed an easier way to manage meal payments and minimize bank runs. So, they started going cashless with LINQ Connect, the payment app included in their LINQ Nutrition solution. To promote use of the app, they devised a creative way to process cash payments.

Students who pay for their meals with cash get their change added to their LINQ Nutrition meal account, which they can use for purchasing their next meal using the app. "We accept the cash, but if you give us a \$5 bill... we put the change right on your account," says Coordinator of Nutrition Services Tricia Kastelitz, RDN, SNS.

In addition to minimizing bank runs, the new policy means nutrition staff members don't need to prepare a cash bank each day and the line moves faster since they're not counting back change.

“We accept the cash, but if you give us a \$5 bill... we put the change right on your account.”

Tricia Kastelitz, RDN, SNS
Coordinator of Nutrition Services
Suffolk Public Schools

[X](#) [in](#) [f](#)

Read their full story: Boosting Revenue and Simplifying K-12 Nutrition Operations with LINQ Connect

[READ THE CASE STUDY](#)

Go cashless with LINQ Connect

<https://www.linq.com/solutions/payments/>

