



SIM2K

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Opportunity:	<i>Make routine school payments convenient for parents</i>
Sector:	<i>Education</i>
Technologies Employed:	<i>E-commerce, SQL Database, StoreFront, On-Line Payments</i>
Project:	<i>On-Line School Fee Payment System</i>

The Problem: A large metropolitan school district was finding the collection of lunch monies and keeping the school's student lunch accounts up to date an administrative challenge. Likewise parents were finding the process of sending checks or cash to school to fund students' accounts inconvenient. Students use a "debit card" daily to pay for lunch, but parents received a weekly statement from Food Services showing running balances on that child's account. If not monitored, a student could run out of funds during a week and be denied a hot lunch (a sack lunch would still be provided) if there were not sufficient funds in the account.

SIM2K's Solution: SIM2K's DataWeb division designed and implemented a secure database application and web page. Available through the school district's Internet site the application allows parents to access a password-protected page for their children, and to use credit cards to directly replenish funds in their child's lunch account. The secure web page shows account balance information. The application was linked directly to school databases to allow automatic updates without need for any re-keying of information by administrative staff. Payments are processed in a secure environment through an Internet-based service, much like any on-line retailer. This program is in effect for students in all grade levels (K-12) throughout the system. If desired, the application can be operated with data imports between key systems.

Client Benefit: The On-Line School Fee Payment System created a win-win situation for the client. Parents now have 24 hour, 7 day a week access to their child's account, and may add funds using credit cards at any time. For the school system, the lunch collection and database updating processes have been completely automated freeing school resources to focus on core objectives. Parents are pleased with the additional flexibility and convenience and improved service options. Based on the success of this application, the client is working with SIM2K to expand their use of this Internet site for other, similarly featured applications, such as book rentals, student class registration, and access to student progress reports and homework.

SIM2K DataWeb On-Line School Fee Payment System

