

## **Credit Card Payment for Tuition**

We have been advised by legal council that if a school allows parents to pay tuition through Facts or directly to the school using a credit card, that it is illegal to charge a “convenience fee” to recover the two and a half percent that must go back to the credit card company. Florida Statute forbids this. Please discontinue this practice. If a parent requests a refund of the convenience fee, you should comply. This statute applies to tuition collection and fund raising activities. It does not apply to debit cards.

It is possible to structure the payment in a different manner. Specifically, a school can establish the cost of tuition, but offer a discount if a family desires to pay cash. The school would not be imposing an up-charge to use the credit card. The tuition is set for everyone. If a family pays by cash, a discount can be given without violating the law.