



CLASSREACH → SYCAMORE

The Switching Playbook

A decision guide for heads of school and business offices evaluating a move from ClassReach to Sycamore. Nine sections, designed to print and forward.

TODAY

ClassReach

VS

TOMORROW

Sycamore

One platform, one login, one bill
\$4 per student per month, all included

Inside: the decision framework, week-by-week migration timeline, side-by-side cost worksheet, questions to ask ClassReach before you cancel, a one-page board summary, and a migration FAQ for your business office.

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Sycamore Leaf Solutions · sycamoreleaf.com · US-based support

1 Why heads of school are switching

Schools moving from ClassReach to Sycamore are usually growing past the 60-100 student microschool tier and need three things: a parent app that is a real family experience (not a notification wrapper), a modern per-student pricing model that scales without flat-tier jumps, and platform breadth that includes donations, tuition refund protection, and international reach. ClassReach has real strengths at the smallest classical school scale, and this page names them honestly.

Across the 14 categories that private school leaders score during platform reviews, Sycamore wins on 10. ClassReach holds the lead on 3. The majority favors Sycamore on family experience, pricing transparency, support, and platform breadth.

\$4

per student per
month, all modules included

4.8 / 5

parent app rating
(Sycamore + TuitionEP combined)

46+

countries served
on 6 continents

4-8

weeks to switch
and go live

The three reasons that come up in every kickoff call

1. Families want one app. Sycamore's Parent App holds a 4.8-star combined rating with TuitionEP. The parent experience is the most frequent touch point with any school platform.
2. Pricing should be predictable. Sycamore publishes its plan at \$4 per student per month with everything included. Schools that adopt the full competitor suite often carry multiple line items that grow as the school grows.
3. Support should answer when called. Sycamore's support and onboarding teams are based in the United States and pair with Sycamore Academy for on-demand training.

2 When to switch

Schools switch from ClassReach at three common moments. Pick the one that fits your school year and contract; Sycamore's onboarding team adapts to all three.

Window	Best for	Watch out for
End of school year	Schools whose ClassReach contract renews mid-summer. Plenty of runway for staff training before fall.	Confirm ClassReach data exports are available after your contract end date.
Mid-year cutover	Schools that want to be on Sycamore before re-enrollment season opens. Cutover at the start of a term or grading period.	Coordinate the cutover with payroll and tuition draft schedules.
Summer	Schools running summer programs or year-round calendars. Compresses training into July and August.	Plan around staff vacation; lock kickoff before mid-June.

Whichever window you pick, Sycamore typically takes 4 to 8 weeks from kickoff to your first tuition cycle on the new platform.

3 What changes for your families

For most schools, parents are the most frequent users of the platform. Here is what shifts the day Sycamore goes live.

One app instead of many

Families currently install ClassReach's parent experience. After the switch, they install the Sycamore Parent App once. Tuition balance, cafeteria balance, grades, attendance alerts, and class announcements live behind the same login.

Payment methods, depending on the processor

Whether saved cards and ACH details transfer depends on ClassReach's current payment processor. When secure token portability is supported, families see no change. When it is not, families re-add their payment method through a one-screen flow in the Sycamore Parent App. Sycamore drafts the parent communications either way.

Tuition plans are reset and recreated

Active payment plans are rebuilt in Sycamore at the same amount, cadence, and remaining balance, then reconciled against the prior platform so nothing is double-charged or missed. Families see the same payment schedule they already expected.

Fee handling becomes your choice

On Sycamore, the school decides per transaction type: absorb the fee, pass it through, or split it. Many schools use this flexibility to reduce the friction families feel at checkout.

Communications consolidate

Class messages, school-wide announcements, and teacher-parent threads route through Sycamore.

4 Migration timeline, week by week

Most schools complete a full switch in 4 to 8 weeks. The schedule below assumes a standard ClassReach migration; mid-year and summer cutovers compress to the same shape with tighter validation windows.



Phase	Phase name	What happens
Week 1	Discovery	- Kickoff call with the head of school and business office - Inventory of current ClassReach modules and contract end dates - Source-of-truth audit for student, family, and tuition data - Switching plan with named dates, owners, and risks
Weeks 2-3	Data + setup	- Joint data extraction from ClassReach - Normalize and load into Sycamore staging environment - Side-by-side validation against the source system - Payment processor connect and test transactions
Weeks 4-6	Training	- Role-based courses for admins, teachers, and counselors - Two live working sessions with the client success team - Parent communication drafts, scheduled and approved - Cutover dry-run on a representative subset of data
Weeks 7-8	Go live	- Production cutover and final data reconciliation - Parents install the Sycamore Parent App, one balance live - First tuition cycle on Sycamore, monitored end-to-end 30-day post-launch review with the school's leadership

5 Side-by-side cost worksheet

Fill the left column with what your school pays ClassReach today. Use the right column to capture the Sycamore plan. The bottom row is the annual difference your board will care about.

Line item	ClassReach today	Sycamore
Per-student license (annual)	_____ × ____ students = _____	\$4 × students × 12 = _____
ClassReach base / SIS module	_____	Included
Tuition / payments module	_____	Included
Admissions / enrollment module	_____	Included
Communications / SMS module	_____	Included
Parent app subscription (if any)	_____	Included
Reporting / analytics module	_____	Standard reporting included
Implementation / customization fees	_____	\$2,500 minimum onboarding
Card convenience fee passed to parents	____ % × _____	School chooses; can be \$0 to parents
Other modules in scope	_____	_____
Annual subtotal	_____	_____
Annual difference (Sycamore vs ClassReach)		_____

Use your real ClassReach invoices in the left column for the most accurate comparison.

6 Questions to ask ClassReach

Send this list to your ClassReach account manager before submitting cancellation notice. The answers protect your data, your families, and your renewal terms.

#	Question to send	Why it matters
1	What is my exact contract end date for each ClassReach module, and what is the cancellation notice window?	Most ClassReach contracts auto-renew. Confirm the notice deadline in writing before you set a Sycamore go-live date.
2	Will I retain read or export access to ClassReach data after my contract ends, and for how long?	Data export windows vary. You want exports available through the final reconciliation, not just the go-live date.
3	What is the format and field coverage of standard ClassReach data exports?	Knowing the export format upfront lets Sycamore's onboarding team plan validation. Ask for sample exports if possible.
4	What happens to in-progress tuition payment plans on the day my contract ends?	Plans, autopay schedules, and saved payment methods need a clean handoff. Confirm whether the platform continues to process or stops.
5	Are there any modules, integrations, or contracts on a different renewal cycle that I should know about?	Family App subscriptions and add-on engagements can run on separate cycles.
6	What is the process for transferring saved payment methods (tokens) to a new payment processor?	Confirm whether tokenized payment data can be transferred securely. This avoids forcing families to re-enter card details.
7	Is there a fee for cancellation, mid-term termination, or data export?	Some contracts include early-termination clauses. Get the exact dollar figure in writing.

7 One-page board summary

Copy or adapt the block below for your next board packet. Replace the bracketed figures with your school's specifics.

BOARD SUMMARY · SWITCHING FROM CLASSREACH TO SYCAMORE

Recommendation

Adopt Sycamore as the school's K-12 platform of record, replacing ClassReach. Sycamore consolidates SIS, gradebook, attendance, admissions, tuition, payments, communications, and the parent mobile app under one license at \$4 per student per month. Sycamore's onboarding team will run the full migration in 4 to 8 weeks, so the school can pick a go-live date that aligns with the start of the next term, the re-enrollment window, or the end of the current contract.

Financial impact (annual)

Current annual cost of ClassReach modules in scope: \$_____. Projected annual cost of Sycamore at \$4 per student per month: \$_____. Estimated net annual savings: \$_____. One-time onboarding investment: \$2,500 minimum.

Operational impact

Families move to a single Sycamore Parent App, which today holds a 4.8-star combined rating (Sycamore + TuitionEP). The school gains tuition refund protection (via Vertical Insure), native donations with AI donor intelligence (rolling out 2026), and US-based onboarding and support.

Risk and mitigation

Switching SIS and tuition together at a single cutover is the largest operational risk. Sycamore's standard migration includes side-by-side validation and a 30-day post-launch monitoring window.

Timeline

4 to 8 weeks from kickoff to first tuition cycle on Sycamore. The school selects the go-live date that fits the calendar, and Sycamore plans backward from it.

8 Migration FAQ for the business office

What's the biggest difference between Sycamore and ClassReach?

Sycamore is one unified platform priced at \$4 per student per month with every module included, plus native iOS and Android apps, banking-grade payments via TuitionEP, native donations with AI donor intelligence, and 46+ countries served. ClassReach is a flat-tier SIS + LMS product (\$175-\$1,320/mo) built for small classical Christian and Catholic classical schools. For microschools under 60 students on the Lite tier, ClassReach is cheaper in absolute dollars; for schools growing past 100 students or adding a development office, Sycamore covers what ClassReach does not.

Is ClassReach cheaper than Sycamore?

It depends on school size. A 40-student microschool on Lite pays \$175/mo, which is \$4.38 per student per month, comparable to Sycamore's \$4. A 100-student school on Basic pays \$350/mo (\$3.50/student), which is cheaper than Sycamore. A 200-student school on Enterprise pays \$1,320/mo (\$6.60/student), which is more expensive than Sycamore. The pricing structures cross over depending on enrollment and tier. Sycamore's per-student model scales linearly; ClassReach's tiers jump at feature-gated thresholds.

Does ClassReach have a real mobile app?

Not in the way most parents expect. Per ClassReach's own documentation, the mobile app is a notification wrapper; clicking a notification opens the school's mobile web view in the device browser. Push notifications currently work on Android only; iOS notifications are 'in development.' The Google Play rating is 3.0 stars across 13 reviews, with parents calling it 'useless.' Sycamore Parent App plus TuitionEP holds a 4.8-star combined rating with native iOS and Android.

Does ClassReach have a donations or fundraising module?

No. There is no ClassReach donations or fundraising product; no donor management, no giving pages, no annual fund workflow. Sycamore is rolling out a native donations module with AI donor intelligence in 2026 from the TuitionEP acquisition.

What does ClassReach do well?

Configurable forms and workflows are ClassReach's standout strength — reviewers repeatedly call this out as a genuine superpower for medical releases, spirit-wear orders, applications, and workflows. Customer support is responsive (4.7 on Capterra) with direct access to the small development team. Cultural fit for classical Christian and Catholic classical schools is real, backed by their formal partnership with the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE).

Does ClassReach serve international schools?

ClassReach's own founding page describes its footprint as 'hundreds of schools across the United States and even a few internationally.' No country count, no non-USD support, no non-English localization. Sycamore serves paying schools in 46+ countries across 6 continents with multi-currency support.

How long does it take to switch from ClassReach to Sycamore?

Most schools complete a full migration in 4 to 8 weeks. ClassReach data is exportable and Sycamore's US-based onboarding team handles the mapping and validation. The variable is whether the school is also adding admissions workflows, donation campaigns, or international families during the switch.

Who owns ClassReach?

ClassReach is bootstrapped and privately held, operated through Aeterna Investments LLC (per Google Play developer listing and Crunchbase). Headquartered in Moscow, ID, with 11-50 employees. No institutional funding, no acquisitions, no PE ownership. Sycamore is also privately held and focused exclusively on K-12 school operations.

9 Next steps

Three ways to move forward, ordered by how ready you are. Pick the one that fits where you are in the decision.

Get a switch-now quote

Send Sycamore your current ClassReach modules and student count. We return a tailored Sycamore quote, a switching timeline, and a line-item comparison against what you pay ClassReach today, typically within two business days. This is the fastest path if you already know you want to move and you need a number to take to the board.

sycamoreleaf.com/switch-now/

View testimonials

Read what heads of school and business offices say about Sycamore after switching. Real schools, real outcomes, real implementation timelines, not curated marketing soundbites.

sycamoreleaf.com/testimonials/

Send your account executive a data export

Send your Sycamore account executive a sanitized export of your ClassReach data. We will run it through staging and walk you through exactly how easy it is to get going on Sycamore. No commitment required.

Reach out to your assigned Sycamore AE directly.

\$4

per student per
month, all modules included

4-8

weeks to first
tuition cycle on Sycamore

\$2.5K

minimum onboarding,
dedicated migration lead

100%

US-based onboarding
and support

Companion to this Playbook: the live comparison page at sycamoreleaf.com/compare/classreach-vs-sycamore.

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