

Finger Food

Fingerprint technology has a new home . . . in the cafeteria.

Talk about easy money! Students in Rome, Georgia, can now pay for cafeteria food with a touch of the finger. The Rome City School District has a new, high-tech payment system that reads students' fingerprints instead of asking students to punch in codes or swipe their ID cards.

"The finger scan system is faster," Rome superintendent Gayland Cooper told *WR News*. "This is the kind of thing that technology should help us with."

Before the new system, students often lost their lunch cards or forgot their codes. In addition, the cafeteria lines moved slowly, often cutting into students' mealtimes.

The new fingerprint scanner has sped things up. "Our students have really enjoyed the new system," Narkissa Ware, principal of Anna K. Davie Elementary School, told *WR News*. "When the lines move faster, the students have more time to enjoy their meal."

Getting a student's fingerprints into the new system takes 10 minutes. After that, the student can touch the scanner at the cashier counter. The student's picture and account information then appear on the computer screen.

Although fingerprints are an easy way to pay for lunch, some parents aren't happy with the new system. Some students don't use the fingerprint scanner because their parents don't like the idea that their children's fingerprints are being scanned daily.

Cooper says that students still have the option of punching in their codes. He adds, however, that students' fingerprint information is **secure**¹.

¹ secure: safe from harm