



Want Biometrics in your lunch line but don't have a POS from Food Service Solutions?



## CHECKOUT BioWedge

[www.biometricsolution.com](http://www.biometricsolution.com)

BioWedge is very easy to set up and configure for existing point of sale software packages for a completely integrated biometric identification system.

### Inside this issue:

**SPECIAL REPORT: Part 2  
Revitalizing the School Lunch Line through  
Fingerprint Identification**

pgs 1 - 2

**Military Leaders Issue  
Report Calling for Strong  
School Nutrition  
Programs**

pg 2

**Tell Congress: Support  
Increased Funding for  
Child Nutrition Programs!**

pg 2

**NSLP and FORMS -  
Working Together to  
"Feed More Kids"**

pg 3

## SPECIAL REPORT: Part 2 Revitalizing the School Lunch Line through Fingerprint Identification

*Part two of a four part special report focusing on the benefits of biometrics in a K-12 atmosphere.*

By now many principals, superintendents, administrators and K-12 food service operators have heard of school lunch biometrics, or the use of high tech devices such as fingerprint readers, to recognize students and allow for the automated payment and accounting of school lunch purchases.

Once the province of the FBI and criminal investigators, fingerprint technology is now regularly being harnessed at K-12 schools around the nation. Not for Orwellian motives such as surveillance, identification or tracking, but for school lunches and breakfasts.

This special report provides information and answers to the following questions:

- A layman's explanation of biometric technology and privacy issues
- How parents can use such systems to monitor and control where their child's lunch money is being spent

*Continued from last month's issue of "...What's for Lunch".*

### SECTION III: Speeding Lunch Lines

Because biometric systems typically take a few seconds to recognize a student and access his or her account information, they're not necessarily faster than well organized roster-based systems, where a name is checked off a list, or ticket-based systems where color coded tickets are simply collected.

However, biometric systems will speed lunch lines where cash is primarily used because students, particularly younger ones, are prone to losing or misplacing cash and extra time is taken to make correct change.

Multiply the change-making process by hundreds of students during a typical lunch, and the delays can cause students to stand in line much of their lunch hour, only to wolf down their food or they avoid school lunches altogether.

Biometric systems also typically speed lines over PIN-based systems, which take time to enter and students tend to forget as well as magnetic card-based systems, which take time to fish out of pockets and swipe.

### SECTION IV: Eliminate the "Free Lunch" Program Stigma



Furthermore, while federal law prohibits schools from overtly identifying those receiving free or reduced price meals, this can inadvertently occur when lunch tickets are color-coded to designate free or reduced price lunches. One consequence of singling out those receiving free or reduced price meals, which can identify them as "poor" in the eyes of their peers, is to cut program participation, especially at the middle and high school level.

This can substantially reduce federal reimbursement for poverty-based programs linked to school lunch counts.

"This stigma and attitude toward 'free lunch' has students opting for a bag of chips and can of soda from vending machines," states a Detroit News source, commenting on the city's public school district loss of \$17.6 million

in federal funding due to foodservice underuse, primarily by high school students qualified for subsidized meals. "Just 40% of those eligible for a free lunch bothered to fill out the application, further burdening the district by reducing E-rate reimbursement, Title I and other subsidy programs which are directly tied to the free and reduced application process." Because there are no color coded tickets or different amounts of cash involved with a biometric system, nobody knows who is buying a free or reduced price lunch. This

eliminates the reputed stigma of being a 'free lunch student,' which can help boost school lunch participation and federal reimbursement via the programs tied to it.

"Biometric technology has brought much needed anonymity to our food service program," says Dr. Russell Strange, Superintendent of Penn Cambria School District. "Not even the cashiers know which students are 'free' or 'reduced' and the students and parents have responded well." "For ten years prior to the system,

high school averaged 28.6% low income," continues Strange. "Now in our fourth year of using the biometric system, high school's low income is 42.7%, with a four-year average of 39.1%. High school is only 2% points below elementary low income for 2004-2005. The additional reimbursement enables us to provide higher quality meals and more generous servings."

*Part 2 of this article will be available in next months issue of "...What's for Lunch".*

## Military Leaders Issue Report Calling for Strong School Nutrition Programs

Recently, Mission: Readiness, a national organization of retired senior military leaders, warned that the nation's childhood obesity crisis is affecting the pool of qualified military recruits. The report, Too Fat to Fight, calls on Congress to take action through Child Nutrition Reauthorization to strengthen current nutrition standards, provide increased funding for the school nutrition programs, and support school-based public health education initiatives.

Military leaders are concerned that the current, growing rate of childhood obesity poses a serious threat to U.S. national security. The Army's Accessions Command, which is charged with recruiting and initial training of new Army recruits, estimates that 27 percent of all Americans 17 to 24 years of age are too heavy to join the military. Overweight is now the most common medical reason for rejection of new recruits.

To solve this crisis, the retired military leaders are calling on Congress to:

- Support the administration's proposal of an increase of \$1 billion per year for ten years for child nutrition programs that would improve nutrition standards, upgrade the quality of meals served in schools and enable more children to have access to these programs;

---

**Military leaders are concerned that the current, growing rate of childhood obesity poses a serious threat to U.S. national security.**

---

- Allow the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt the Institute of Medicine standards for what foods and beverages can be served or marketed in schools; and

- Help develop new school-based strategies, based on research, that help parents and children adopt healthier life-long eating and exercise habits.

While this morning's Associated Press story characterized school meals as unhealthy and a "threat to national security," the report actually cites school meals as an important part of the solution. It notes that school meals are a stable source of good nutrition for many low-income children, citing research that shows school meals help children maintain a healthy weight.

Article provided by:



[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

## Tell Congress: Support Increased Funding for Child Nutrition Programs!

On March 17th, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) introduced the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, the draft Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill. SNA supports this legislation, which is a strong first step toward strengthening these programs and acknowledges the need to increase funding for school meals.

While the legislation would boost funding for the federal child nutrition programs by \$450 million per year, including a performance-based 6 cent increase in the federal reimbursement rate for school lunches, additional efforts are needed to reach the \$1 billion per year increase

requested by President Barack Obama.

---

**The legislation would boost funding for the federal child nutrition programs by \$450 million per year.**

---

Representative Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and Jo Ann Emerson (R-Mo.) are asking

Members of Congress to sign onto a letter encouraging Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to identify potential funding to meet the President's \$1 billion per year request. Please take a moment to contact your Member of Congress and ask them to sign onto this important letter. Click on the following link for an action alert with a suggested letter you can send to your Member of Congress.

<http://capwiz.com/asfsa/issues/alert/?alertid=14929151>

Article provided by:

[www.schoolnutrition.org](http://www.schoolnutrition.org)

# NSLP and FORMS - Working Together to "Feed More Kids"

Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) has been hard at work ensuring that each student has the opportunity to eat a warm, nutritious lunch or breakfast regardless of their family's financial status. The program benefits all of those involved children, parents and schools.

## Benefits to Children

For children, the National School Lunch Program provides a nutritious meal that contains one-third of the recommended dietary allowance of necessary nutrients.

## Benefits to Parents

For parents, the program offers a convenient method of providing a nutritionally balanced lunch at the lowest possible price.

## Benefits to Schools

For schools, the program enhances children's learning abilities by contributing to their physical and mental well-being. Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems and are more attentive in class.

Since 1989, Food Services Solutions has made it our mission to "Feed More Kids" through the advancement of school lunch related technologies. Seeing a need to

...WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

improve the NSLP's Free or Reduced Meal program, we worked closely with school Food Service Directors and other administrative personnel to develop FORMS. An acronym for Free Or Reduced Meal Software, FORMS is a fully comprehensive software system that speeds up and simplifies the enrollment process. The benefits to children, their parents, and their schools are listed below:

## Benefits to Children

For children, FORMS removes the burden of each student in the family carrying home and returning an application form. A single multichild household application form is all that is necessary.

## Benefits to Parents

For parents, the FORMS system can be set to automatically send notification when it comes time to fill out the Free or Reduced application. No more wondering if they will have the application completed and submitted within the 30-day period. In addition, FORMS can import TANF and Food Stamp data for direct certification, eliminating the need to fill out an application.

## Benefits to Schools

For schools, the benefits of FORMS are numerous as they are beneficial. The software automatically calculates family

eligibility by income, provides a complete history of student status changes (i.e., school transfers, lunch type, etc.), imports data from students management systems as well as exports data for No Child Left Behind, and the system runs on a client server database—making it accessible anywhere in the school district.

---

**For parents, the FORMS system can be set to automatically send notification when it comes time to fill out the Free and Reduced application.**

---

Working together, the NSLP and FORMS are truly living their mission to "Feed More Kids." For more information on the NSLP's Free or Reduced Meal Program, visit [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/). To learn more about what FORMS can do for your school or district, visit us online at [www.foodserve.com/forms.htm](http://www.foodserve.com/forms.htm).



**3101 Pleasant Valley Blvd.,  
Altoona, PA 16602**

**Phone: 1-800-425-1425**

**Fax: (814)941-7572**

**Email: [sales@foodserve.com](mailto:sales@foodserve.com)**



## **SIMPLE, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE**

*Food Service Solution's ability to develop creative solutions to make our customer's job easier, more profitable, and better managed has made us a leader in our industry. With over 85 years of combined experience in institutional food services, our staff is dedicated to providing our customers with state-of-the-art software & hardware systems that are fully integrated to meet the unique needs of food service professionals.*

**[www.foodserve.com](http://www.foodserve.com) - [www.planyourprofit.com](http://www.planyourprofit.com) - [www.biometricsolution.com](http://www.biometricsolution.com)**