

Wheeling Park using finger scanners for students to get cafeteria food

By [NEWS9](#) and [Philip Stahl](#)
OHIO COUNTY, W.Va. --

An Ohio County high school is doing away with plastic IDs and cash in the cafeteria and using new technology to scan students' fingers instead.

Wheeling Park High School recently started a finger scanning program at the school, and administrators said it makes it faster and easier for everyone to get breakfast or lunch.

"Every day it's an issue when students forget their ID numbers or cards. It takes longer to get students through the line. This is a fast and easy way to get students through the breakfast or lunch line," said County Child Nutrition Coordinator Renee Griffin.

The system was implemented a few weeks ago, and Griffin said starting the system wasn't easy. She said the school worked with its technology coordinator to scan 1,700 students' fingers into the system.

Now, students walk up to a computer, which scans their fingers. Griffin said the system doesn't take a fingerprint, so there is no reason to worry about identity theft.

"It turns certain points of the finger scan into binary numbers," she said.

"Identometrics have made it clear that even for the purposes of law enforcement, nothing could ever be recreated. So once the student graduates, the numbers are taken out of the system, just as they would prior if they had an ID number," Griffin said.

With a packed lunchroom and a popular system, officials said they're convinced the system is a go. About 95 percent of Wheeling Park students are using the system, and administrators said their goal is to have the system up and running in all Ohio County Schools by the beginning of the next school year.