



WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"Schools Committed to Excellence"

West Haven School District

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Dear Parents and Guardians of West Haven students:

Starting January 27, 2014, the school district is implementing a finger scanning program in all school cafeterias. This will speed up lunch lines, eliminate any risk of clerical check-out errors, and provide students an easy way to identify themselves when buying food. This method is called biometric identification.

What is biometric identification?

Biometric identification is automated methods of identifying a person based upon physical or behavioral characteristics using technology. Our district will use identiMetrics biometric finger scanning identification software because it is fast, accurate, cost-effective and non-intrusive.

How does finger scanning identification work?

The software will scan the finger to create and store individual templates of unique points that identify each student. Starting January 27th, each time a student pays for food, the software again scans a student's finger and finds a matching payment account in the database. Parents can choose for their children to opt out of the program by December 11th, which means the child can continue paying with cash or a student ID number.

What about my child's privacy?

The software scans the finger for identification. It does not store a copy of the fingerprints. Instead, the software creates a template of the unique fingerprint characteristics. These templates are stored in the school's database with the same high level of security of all of your child's records. When your child graduates or is no longer enrolled in the school system, the templates are deleted. At no time is a fingerprint stored, and therefore, they cannot be recreated or released.

When the new system launches, PaySchool will no longer be used. Any money left on your account will be transferred to a new program called NutriKids. You will be able to access online payments at www.whschools.org under the "Parents and Students" tab.

We hope you will find this new way of paying for school meals safe, easy, accurate and fast. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Meg Kingston, Food Services at 203-937-4373. If you are opting out of the finger scanning program, **please return this form by Wednesday, December 11, 2013.**

I **do not** give permission for my child to be finger scanned.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____