

## **Great News!! Muscogee County School District will be using Palm Scanning Technology in all High School Cafeterias for School Year 2013-2014.**

We will be performing palm scanning at all High Schools during registration days. If you want to opt out of the palm scanning, you will need to obtain your student's Personal ID Number from the school. This number will be used to purchase a meal with the School Nutrition Program.

**Please take a moment to read below on how this technology works.**



Students at Cranberry Station Elementary School in Westminster, Md., use a palm scanning device to pay for their school lunches. (Photo: Jack Gruber, USA TODAY)

### **Program Highlights**

Palm scanning technology is popping up nationwide as a bona fide biometric tracker of sales transactions. It also has guaranteed applications as a secure identifier.

Here's how it works: Using the same near-infrared technology that comes in a TV remote control or Nintendo Wii video game, the device takes a super high-resolution infrared photograph of the vein pattern just below a person's skin. That image, between 1.5 and 2.5 square inches, is recorded and digitized. Students are using it to pay for school lunches with just a wave of the hand.

The technology reduces the time it takes at the point of sale to approximately four seconds per transaction with 99% accuracy. This capability speeds up the time that the students are in the line which gives them more time to eat their meal. Hygiene is not a concern because students do not need to touch the device, but only hold their hand directly above it to register a scan.

Pinellas County, FL Schools were the first in the nation to bring palm scanning to their lunch lines about 18 months ago. They are being used by 50,000 students at 17 high schools and 20 middle schools. Soon, the program will expand to 60,000 more students at 80 elementary schools. Only 2% of students opted out of the program and continue to use cash as the method of payment.

*The Muscogee County School district does not share any information with any 3<sup>rd</sup> party companies. All information is stored on an encrypted server for the utmost security.*

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”