

Education Technology

“Discover Your Total Solution!”

Special Edition: America’s Safe School Week

October 20 through 26, 2002



In honor of *America’s Safe School Week*, Richardson Business Machines would like to devote this issue of Education Technology to providing knowledge of technology that will help to create safer schools. The National School Safety Center sponsors the observance of *America’s Safe School Week*. This observance is also supported by many local, state and national public officials and professional organizations. Please join us in promoting this campaign by creating a safer school for your students.

Debit Card Systems Create a Safer Cashless Environment!

According to the 1999 National Crime Prevention Survey, "75% of children have been subject to bullying while at school, yet 49% of parents did not recognize bullying as a problem."

In order for children to feel safe at school, school administrators are trying to reduce the amount of bullying. Many schools are moving towards a cashless school environment. In a cashless school environment, parents may opt to prepay their child's meals by check at the beginning of the term, so that children no longer need to carry cash to school and opportunities for bullying are therefore reduced.

Another way that the cashless system creates a more comfortable environment for children is by creating a confidential way for students to buy lunch if they are on a free or reduced lunch program. Some students prefer to go without eating, rather than go through the embarrassment of having their peers know they are on free or reduced lunch programs. Children do not want to stand out.

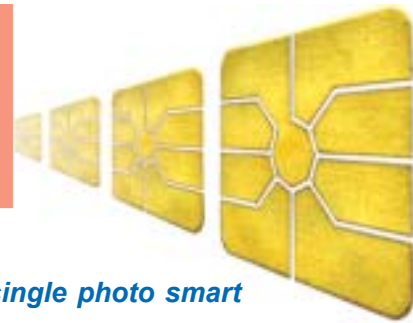
By using the cashless system, information is retained in the school's computers and the debit card will allow access to the student's lunch account or identify him/her as being on the free or reduced lunch program --and no one will know which it is. It also keeps records of what the student had for lunch and how much was spent. Parents prepaying a student's food service account can, if they choose, stipulate how much a child may spend each day for lunch or vending.

Datacard's Accelus System uses the latest smart card technology to easily eliminate many safety concerns providing peace of mind for school administrators and parents alike. [\(Continued on Page 2\)](#)



Debit Card Systems Create a Safer Cashless Environment!

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Automates the allocation of free school meals

The chip on the card carries information regarding the pupil's entitlements and is automatically read by the Point-of-Sale system. This means that it is no longer necessary to issue free meal tokens or have a free/ reduced lunch list on a daily basis.

Speed up transactions at the Point-of-Sale

The average time taken to carry out a smart card transaction is considerably less than a cash transaction which means that a greater number of pupils can tender payment for meals in the same time period.

Encourage healthy eating

The Accelus solution offers the possibility of allocating a number of points to various food items. Students can therefore be rewarded for choosing fruit or vegetables as opposed to chocolate. The school may present prizes to those pupils scoring the highest number of points.

Management Information at the touch of a button

All of Accelus Point-of-Sale terminals record full transactional details. These details are collected in a central database either across a network or by downloading to a laptop computer. When the data has been collected, reports detailing, for example, the number for free school meals taken up on a particular day, can be quickly and easily generated.

Discouraging Bullying

Parents may opt to prepay their child's meals by check at the beginning of the term, so that children no longer need to carry cash to school and opportunities for bullying are therefore reduced.



Multiple applications on a single photo smart card ID

Cards can be customized to meet the individual's school specific requirements. This includes the incorporation of student photographs, school logos, library bar codes and student identification numbers.

Library and Computer Labs

The pupil's smart card may also be printed with a bar code for library borrowing. If pupils are permitted to make extracurricular use of copiers and networked printers, an Accelus terminal can also be fitted to this equipment to facilitate payment using the smart card.

Vending Machines

An added benefit of the Accelus School Meals solution is that schools can use the same card to operate other facilities controlled by Accelus terminals. This means that pupils can also use the card to buy items at vending machines.

Student Attendance Tracking

The card can also be used to provide automated student attendance.

Access Control

If required, the Accelus smart card can also accommodate bar code, magnetic stripe or proximity technology for access control.

Portability

The Accelus system is portable. The terminals can be moved to a football field, gymnasium, theater, booster club programs, etc. to complete transactions in a remote location. This feature is ideal for schools that wish to accept payment for admission ticket by use of the students debit card. Students may also use their card at any school to purchase items. For example, if an 8th grader were visiting the high school for lunch he/she may purchase lunch directly from his/her account.

Call Richardson Business Machines for more information 800-339-3194. Ask about a FREE demo.



Increasing Security with Photo Identification Cards

According to a survey by USA Weekend (based on the written answers of 65,193 6th through 12th grade students), "Overall, 37% did not feel safe in schools," "50% knew someone who switched schools to feel safer," and "63% said they would learn more if they felt safer."



Security is the main topic on most school administrators minds. Many schools are increasing security with photo identification cards. The plastic cards are catching on fast with many school administrators that are looking for ways to differentiate those who belong from those who do not. The idea is that when students, staff and visitors are required to wear ID cards, unauthorized people are more easily noticed. This way we can protect our children from strangers who may enter the school campus.

By requiring students, staff and visitors to wear their ID badges, a strong level of confidence among staff and students will be installed. This system will enable school officials and students to determine at a glance who belongs and who does not. Some schools have even color coded their ID cards to make it extremely easy to know if the person is a freshman, junior, staff, visitor, etc...

The plastic identification cards provide special attention to security and access control issues. Enabling school districts to heighten school security easily and affordably. The cards are very inexpensive to produce. Schools can personalize the cards with school mascots and taglines. These cards are very durable and will create a return on investment quickly.

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Not only have the plastic ID cards been used to enhance security, they are also being used for a variety of other applications.

Student, staff and visitor ID Badges • Controlled entries on your entire campus • Registration processes/ record keeping • Meal programs • Library/ bookstore use • Equipment checkout • Activity passes • Fund-raising activities • Vending machine purchases • Parking Access/ Parking Permits • ATM/ Debit Cards

Call Richardson Business Machines for more information 800-339-3194. Ask about a FREE demo.

Heightened school security procedures during terrorist threats

Recommendations from the NSSC

- ◆ Provide special attention to perimeter security and access control issues
- ◆ Review staffing and supervision plans.
- ◆ Maintain a proactive effort of visitor access control.
- ◆ Verify the identity of service personnel and vendors visiting the school.
- ◆ Secure access to utilities, boiler rooms and other maintenance/facilities operations locations.
- ◆ Evaluate food and beverage service stock, storage and protection procedures.
- ◆ Assess school health and medical preparedness.
- ◆ Identify higher-risk facilities, organizations and potential terrorist targets in the community surrounding schools.
- ◆ Continue local field trips unless specific threat assessment suggest otherwise.
- ◆ Provide K-12 school-specific security, crime prevention and crisis preparedness training to staff.



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please send a request to marketing@richardsonbus.com.*



"Discover Your TOTAL Solution to Photo Identification!"

Call Richardson Business Machines for more information on:

- ◆ Datacard and Fargo Photo Identification Systems
- ◆ Photo ID Supplies and Accessories (plastic cards, smart cards, printer ribbons and much more!) We also stock supplies for most major brands.
- ◆ ViaNet Web-Enabled Photo ID Solution
- ◆ Accelus Cashless Payment Solutions
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