The Use of Biometrics to Insure Accountability

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Biometrics have been successfully tested for taking attendance at Lyman High School in Longwood, Florida. The idea of reliable identification using the uniqueness of a person's body parts has been adapted from security techniques used in industry to insure accountability in a public school setting.

Students are currently "signing in" by putting a four digit code into a key pad and then placing their hand into the Handkey identify verifier. A digital camera compares a recorded image of the student's hand and "verifies" that they are present. The device is connected to a computer that records the exact time of identification.

There are no arguments about being tardy or absent on a certain day, plus the students actually enjoy the process. Taking role takes from two - three seconds for each student, without the teacher being present. Several parents have called to verify attendance and there have been NO complaints about the system.