

Computer Program Tracks Lunch Choices



Imagine coming home from school one day and having your mother tell you not to eat two bags of potato chips for lunch anymore. How could she know what you bought for lunch?

Soon parents in Houston, Texas, will be able to use the Internet to find out what their children had for lunch in school. A new computer program will let parents choose certain foods -- like potato chips -- that their children are not allowed to buy. It also will let parents tell cafeteria workers if their children have allergies to certain foods.

Families will have to sign up to use the program. If parents sign up, they will be able to put money in a lunch account for their children. The children will use that account to pay for their lunches in the cafeteria. When students pay for their lunches, cafeteria workers will learn if there is anything a student should not buy.

NEWS WORD BOX

Internet	allergies
account	program
scanned	obesity

The new program is going to start this summer in some schools. It will be in all 305 of the district's schools by the end of next school year.

The new program will let parents be more involved in their children's food choices, said Ray Barger, an official of the company that built the program. "The program will help parents coach children on good food choices too," he told Education World.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE NEWS

- School leaders are getting the program because a lot of students are overweight, and they hope this will help kids eat better and lose weight.
- Families who don't have the Internet at home can use school computers to look up what their children are eating.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Some people say that the new system cannot solve the obesity problem on its own. What do they mean by that?