

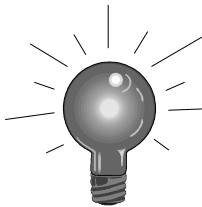


CodeFacts

AIDC (Automated Identification and Data Collection) Technical & Informational Documents
Written for Everyone

Bar Code Technology in Schools

In most years since our company's existence in 1987, the words "bar code" in a school situation most likely referred to "library circulation." However, in recent years, we have been finding and developing more and more interesting and creative applications for bar code technology in schools.



The purpose of this document is to share some ideas, concepts and strategies and hope that you share in the positive vision that the adoption of technology can bring to a place of learning. Some of these applications are tried and proven, some are mostly conceptual. Nevertheless, please keep an open mind and consider their applicability to your school's needs. Implementing a system utilizing bar code technology is usually justified within the first school year in terms of time savings, increased accuracy, and reduced loss of books, assets or whatever you're keeping track of.

Library Circulation

The most common bar code application for schools is in the tracking of library materials as they are checked out and received. The technology is so efficient that many librarians actually let the students scan books out themselves!

The lower cost of portable data collection has enabled many schools to utilize battery-powered portable bar code readers as a cost-effective solution to physically count the book inventory right on the shelf.

Text Book Tracking

Much like a library, bar-coded student i.d. cards and bar-code-labeled books speed up and add unparalleled accuracy to the processes of disbursing and taking back textbooks. We have created the ABC Textbook Tracking software and hardware package specifically for this application.

Student Attendance

School administrations consume a lot of time and energy keeping track of the attendance of students. In some prototypical tests using bar code technology, we have found the time spent in entering student attendance data (especially in high schools) to be less than *half* of what it previously was, allowing administrative personnel to engage in more important work.

Student Grading and Evaluation - Surveys

This isn't necessarily a bar code application. OMR (Optical Mark Recognition) is the more commonly-used technology. Multiple-choice exams and tests, as well as surveys, are more easily tallied when OMR is used. We have used this technology to scan and tally the speaker session evaluations at teachers' conventions.

CTS Competency Tracking System

Recently, high school CTS (Career Technology Studies) departments have been urged to assemble data specific to the competencies of students within vocational training programmes. Gathering that competency-based data in an accurate and efficient manner can be accomplished by using small, portable, pocket-sized bar code readers. Teachers can dynamically collect student competency-related data as they go about their teaching and supervision, simply by scanning bar codes from student i.d. cards and bar-coded templates. This application, we feel, has tremendous implications in the coming years and is easily cost-justifiable in most circumstances.

Fixed Asset Tracking

AURORA can provide a complete asset tracking package, including user-friendly software, portable hardware and uniquely-encoded and durable bar code labels to track desks, computers, lab or AV equipment, etc. Each asset record can contain asset attributes such as the date purchased, model, serial number and product type and, most importantly, the date and place it was last seen!

Tool/Inventory Circulation Tracking for CTS (Career Technologies Studies) Departments

Most CTS departments loan out equipment to students for short-term use. If each equipment item was bar-coded, it would be easier to keep track of who had what.

We've already proved this system in many industrial toolcrib applications—taking it to a high school CTS department wouldn't be a big stretch.

Other Applications and Ideas

How about distributing and tracking locker locks with bar codes and keeping the lock combination in a central database?

What about using encoded student i.d. cards to easily take attendance at assemblies and sporting events?

Considered using bar code or OMR technology on lunch menus to tally just how many kids want a ham sandwich for lunch next Wednesday?

Any more ideas? We'd love to hear from you.