



OPI's Virtual Tribal Caucus

Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:00 PM

<https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/92407465707?pwd=WkRqVFQ0UG5WeTZwRmRNb3dHbFQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 924 0746 5707 Password: 035532

Background

- [Senate Bill 40](#) (sponsored by Senator Frank Smith in 2019) required the MT OPI to create and maintain an electronic directory photograph repository of all Montana public school students for the exclusive purpose of locating missing school-age children.
- Parents/guardians must opt-in to have their child's photograph in the repository. Photographs of students without an opt-in will not be collected and all photographs will automatically be purged from the repository after two years. Photographs can also be removed from the repository upon request by a parent/guardian.
- \$45,000.00 was appropriated to the OPI for the repository implementation.

Implementation of the Repository

- **Fall of 2019:** The OPI and the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish procedures and processes to make the repository available to DOJ and other law enforcement agencies.
- The OPI signed a contract with Infinite Campus (the statewide student information system vendor and provider of the system where the photographs are stored). This contract fully expended the \$45,000.00 appropriated as follows:
 - \$30,000.00 one-time implementation charge
 - \$6,000.00 annual maintenance and support fee through 2022-23 school year
- **March 2020:** The repository went into production and schools began uploading photographs
- **January 2021:** The repository contained 23,288 photographs of students on 01/14/21, approximately 16.5% of the total public student population. Anecdotally, OPI's data team has heard from the field that COVID19 and the opt-in requirement contribute to low participation rates. The OPI continuously markets and communicates awareness of the repository to schools to ensure awareness of the obligation to obtain parental opt-in and upload photographs. To date the OPI has not been made aware of any instances of a child found or returned due to the repository.

For more information:

Visit the OPI Photo Repository Page: <http://opi.mt.gov/Photo-Repository>

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