

Description of fiscal impact:

LCFOT2 directs the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to create and maintain an electronic directory photograph repository of individual students for the purposes of providing photographs to law enforcement for students who have been identified as a missing child. It further directs the OPI to include the directory photograph on the monthly missing child list the OPI provides to districts.

LCFOT2 directs school district trustees to inform parents annually about the repository and provide a means for parents to “opt-in” or be removed from the repository. School district trustees must then provide the photos and other associated identifying information to the OPI repository.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Facts:

1. The Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) currently posts a list of missing school-age children at the Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse located here - <https://dojmt.gov/missing-persons/>
2. OPI currently emails the Missing School-Age Children PDF (with photos) to districts once a month.
3. Student Information Systems (SIS's) are used by most districts to store marks (grades and academic information) and demographic information about students. Most SISs, but not all, have the ability to store student directory photographs.
 - a. Some smaller districts do not use an SIS.
 - b. Some districts use the OPI-sponsored SIS called AIM Montana Edition. The AIM Montana Edition SIS does not have the ability to store student directory photographs because photographs have not previously been required or requested to be collected and submitted to the OPI.
4. The OPI's Statewide Student Information System which all districts send and submit information to, is called AIM State Edition. The AIM State Edition also does not currently have the ability to collect or manage student directory photographs, again because photographs have not been required or requested to be collected and submitted to the OPI.

Assumptions:

1. School district trustees will store student directory photographs in their district's SIS and develop a means (either through their SIS or via some other process) to flag/record the student as “participating” or “not participating” in the directory photograph repository program.
2. School districts will upload directory photographs for “participating” students to the AIM State Edition SIS. This upload would be expected to coincide with existing student demographic and academic data collection schedules. Non-participating student photographs would not be uploaded.
3. The OPI and DOJ would cooperatively modify current and develop new business and technology processes to positively identify and provide the directory photographs for missing school-age children that do not have photographs through DOJ's current process of producing the Missing School-Age Children PDF (with photos).

Potential Costs Associated with these Assumptions:

1. **District SIS Changes – UNKNOWN COST** – Districts would likely want to make changes to their district SIS to facilitate the collection of directory photographs and participation status in the repository program. In addition, some work could be needed to facilitate the upload of photographs from the districts' SIS to the to the AIM State Edition SIS. The cost of these efforts is unknown and variable because it could involve customization/configuration of each district's SIS or involve an effort in developing a "manual" process outside of their SIS.
2. **AIM State and Montana Edition SIS Changes - \$30,000 - \$50,000** - The OPI would need to make modifications to the State and Montana Edition SISs that would enable uploading and management of photos. OPI's SISs are hosted and maintained by a private vendor, Infinite Campus and all modifications would be performed by this vendor. This cost estimate is based on past customizations and changes of similar size and scope.
3. **OPI and DOJ Business Process and Technology Changes - \$4,920.00** - It is estimated that up to 60 hours of OPI Computer Systems Analyst time would be needed to work with DOJ staff to modify and create business processes and technology systems to implement OPI's directory photographs in the Missing School-Age Children PDF (with photos).