

### **Student Data Privacy (HB 745)**

With the passage of HB 745 *The Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Act*, there will inevitably be new policies for districts to implement the law. The first policy is the MTSBA 3601 and 3601F model policies proposed for district adoption and being presented to you for first reading. Policy 3601 recaps the verbiage from the law while 3601F is the model privacy agreement that will soon be going to outside entities for signing.

Why is this important? While we do sign agreements with some companies they do not address all the terms that are now in the new law. Additionally, we push apps out to our iPads and chromebooks that may collect personally identifiable information. Examples, we utilize McGraw Hill Education for textbooks and sync to them a great deal of student personally identifiable information. However, that existing agreement does not meet all the requirements of HB 745 that is now law. Further example for our Math Manipulatives by BrainiacCamp app collects personally identifiable information with student names and emails. While their current privacy policy says they will protect our student information, it is not guaranteed nor are we protected in the event that they decided to change their privacy policy next week or if they were to sell their company to someone else. Requiring the data privacy agreements with these outside vendors protects our student information in the event they change policies as well as requiring prompt notification to the district in the event their systems are breached/hacked as well as ensuring they will not use the student information to market/advertise to our students.

### **META**

META recently conducted its board retreat/working session this past week. The organization took a great amount of time identifying upcoming challenges in schools and how technology will best adapt to those challenges. Key things identified are both growth at larger urban schools with declining enrollments in small rural schools, the hiring of qualified teachers, how to retain Montana graduates in Montana and probably the most critical is the ever increasing number of students entering our schools requiring special services.

The two areas this upcoming year that will be explored the most are the implementation of HB 745 including training and tackling solutions to best serve our current and future special services students.

Until next month.....