From: Linda Marsh
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Assessment
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:44:05 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education from Superintendent Denise Juneau. This waiver, if allowed, will make it possible for all Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test in the spring of 2014. The approved waiver will permit students to take the new online assessment rather than the Montana Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) which has been used in the past. Eliminating the requirement for the CRT will provide the following benefits to education in Montana:

1. Additional instructional time for students by eliminating double testing of students;
2. Thorough test of computer hardware and network infrastructure to determine gaps and needs;
3. Professional development for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment;
4. More effective and efficient transition to the 2014-2015 assessment; and
5. Student assessment based on the Common Core Standards which are being taught in Montana classrooms.

Thank you for considering this waiver request.
Linda Marsh
Beaverhead County Superintendent of Schools
Dillon, MT