From: Erin Lipkind
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: No double testing
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:38:07 AM

I am writing in support of Ms. Juneau's waver request to the US Dept of Education. No student or school district should be required to submit to double testing. It is a waste of instructional time. Many school districts also utilize MAP or AIMSWEB testing as a means of formative assessment, which provide immediate formative feedback and are in fact more useful than the summative assessment that Montcas, and presumably, Smarter Balance, will provide. There is simply no time in the school year for additional testing.

Additionally, the pilot test will give Montana teachers and schools, as well as the OPI, the opportunity to provide feedback on the quality of the Smarter Balance assessment. They will be better prepared for the 2014-15 SY when the assessment results matter. Piloting the assessment will allow teachers more time to transition to the common core as they take what they learn from the 2013-14 test and modify their instruction to include the types of Q&A students experience.

Finally, many schools are not prepared with the technology necessary to administer the smarter balance test. A pilot year would provide a cushion should lack of technology hardware and bandwidth, and student instruction in its use, be the cause of test failure.

Sincerely,

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