From: Debbie Combs
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: double testing
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:48:06 AM

I write to support the waiver request to the U.S. Dept. of Education from Supt. Denise Juneau to allow Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test in the spring of 2014. The approved waiver would permit students to take the new online assessment rather than the Montana Criterion Referenced Test (CRT). Eliminating the requirement for the CRT would provide the following benefits to education in Montana:

1. Add instructional time for students by eliminating double testing.
2. Test computer hardware and network infrastructure to determine gaps and needs.
3. Provide professional development for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment.
4. Provide a more effective and efficient transition to the 2014-15 assessment.
5. Students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms.

Respectfully submitted,
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