From: McKenna Russ
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Waiver
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:59:15 AM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to support the State Superintendent's request for a waiver of the obligation to administer the MontCAS (for purposes of determining AYP under the NCLB Act) this Spring as our school begins field testing the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. I am very much interested in effective assessment of learning but it makes little sense to continue to require the CRT test, which is not aligned with the Board of Public Education's standards, while we are also administering the SBAC test, which is aligned with the Board of Public Education's standards.

This variance request provides the U.S. Department of Education with an opportunity to reduce red tape and increase flexibility for schools as we transition to the SBAC test. If granted, it will allow teachers increased time to focus on instruction under the new standards, rather than on administering duplicate assessments, one of which is no longer aligned with the Montana Board of Public Education's standards.

I respectfully request that you grant the State Superintendent's requested waiver.

Sincerely,

Russell McKenna, Superintendent, Heart Butte K-12 Schools