From: Wendy Ihde
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Double Testing feedback
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 9:59:38 AM

I am writing in support of the waiver to be sent from Superintendent Denise Juneau to the U.S. Department of Education to eliminate double testing of Montana students in the spring of 2014. By eliminating the MontCAS Reading and Mathematics assessments and including all students in the field test of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), there will be more instructional time for students and less time spent on administration of tests.

I think having all students participate in the field testing of the new SBAC tests will provide valuable experience for students, teachers, and administrators. It will allow us to test computer hardware and network infrastructure to determine gaps and needs. This will also give us a more efficient transition to the 2014-2015 assessment as teachers and administrators will have the opportunity to review the delivery, content, vocabulary and structure of the SBAC assessment. It is also a good idea to have all our students and schools represented in the field testing to make sure it is well-suited and fair to students in our state.

By maintaining the improvement status of schools from the 2012-2013 school year, school improvement will continue to be supported and educators and students will continue to benefit from those efforts.

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" Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time." Hebrew Proverb

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