From:	Mark Garber
To:	OPI Waivers
Subject:	Testing Waiver
Date:	Tuesday, October 01, 2013 10:20:35 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. It is difficult for students to put that much effort into two tests when they are so close together. By eliminating the MontCAS and including all students in the field test of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, there will be more instructional time for students and less time spent on administration of tests. Instructional time in the classroom is extremely important because we don't want our students falling through the cracks.

I think having all students participate in the field testing of the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests will provide valuable experience for students, teachers, and administrators so they will better know what to expect the next year. 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.

I also support 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. Thank you for your time.

Mark Garber, Centerville Public School