From: Fred Hofman
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Support for waiver from double testing
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I think Superintendent Denise Juneau summed up the request fairly nicely: "Rather than use our old test, which measures old standards, the request is to measure new standards," Juneau said. "Why would we test something that's not even being taught?"
See: http://helenair.com/news/local/state-educators-seek-nclb-test-waiver/article_11416c6c-2a5c-11e3-b0de-0019bb2963f4.html

I note here in Harrison, as is the case with many other districts, we also use MAPS testing through NWEA. This testing is also aligning itself with Common Core. We lose significant time with MAPS testing but it is worthwhile and helpful to improve our students learning. We get a more accurate assessment of our students ability and skill levels with this type of testing.

The double testing will take too much time out of instruction and there is no real purpose behind it as Denise pointed out.

The participation in the practice testing is important, *and more important to our student's educational needs* than taking another CRT. The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is an example of how it is beneficial. The LSAT consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Four of the five sections contribute to the test taker's score. The unscored section, commonly referred to as the variable section, typically is used to pretest new test questions or to pre-equate new test forms. This helps prepare for future testing and insures the quality and reliability of the test; just like the Smarter Balanced Test will do for Montana. It will assist in getting the bugs out and making sure we are truly ready for the new and improved testing that is to come.

Denying the request would essentially be giving a "W" to the anti-public school faction in Montana and a black eye for the Department of Education. Q: Why would the federal government make schools in Montana take a test that is *wholly irrelevant*? A: Because that's how the Federal government works. I find it ironic that the very folks likely objecting to the waiver are the ones who will be the first to point out the idiocy of taking the CRT on standards that do not exist in Montana.

Please use common sense and grant Montana the waiver.

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