From: Scott Dubbs
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Supporting the Waiver Request for SBAC Testing
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 12:29:23 PM

I write to support the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education from Superintendent 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 of students;
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 2014-2015 assessment; an d
5. Students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms.

Ultimately, I believe having all students participate in the field testing of the new SBAC tests is a common sense approach as Montana moves toward the use of the new CCS assessments. This specific opportunity will provide valuable testing experience for students, teachers, and administrators; and allows for having all our students and schools represented in the field testing to make sure it is well-suited and fair to students in Montana.

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.

Scott A. Dubbs

LPS Curriculum (& Assessment) Director

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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