From: Chris Bilant
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Support for waiver from double testing
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 1:54:23 PM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to support State Superintendent Denise Juneau's request for a waiver of the obligation to administer the CRT test this spring 2014 as our schools (hopefully) begins field testing the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. It remains important for Montana Schools to participate in effective assessment of learning; to require the CRT test while field testing the SBAC pulls students away from learning opportunities by testing twice. Additionally, the CRT is not aligned with the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS), while the SBAC test is aligned with the MCCS.

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 duplicative assessments, one of which is no longer aligned with the Montana Board of Public Education's standards.

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

Sincerely,

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