From: Jeff Hornby
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: testing variance
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 2:28:16 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the waiver being requested by State Superintendent, Denise Juneau. At Kalispell Middle School, we take great stock in assessment data and have utilized various pieces of data (CRT, MAP, Gates-MacGinitie, CBAs, etc…) with regard to our entire student population to guide our decision making. Last year we invested portions of early dismissal time, team meetings, department meetings, department head meetings and other meetings as needed to learn the aspects of, develop, implement and review performance tasks as we prepare for the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. Due to the direction our building, district and state will be moving in the near future, we will not benefit from administration of the CRT as we once did. This is why I strongly support this variance being requested by Superintendent Juneau. Granting this variance will allow our teachers to continue their focus on the SBAC style of assessment which has lead our staff to increased levels of collaboration and incredible instructional strategies. Our district has also invested a great deal of time and effort into understanding and making adjustments with regard to the Common Core Standards and the SBAC is aligned to those standards giving us a clear gauge on those instructional practices we are currently employing.

I respectfully request that you grant Montana this wavier. We will participate in whatever the SBAC has to offer this spring and school developed performance tasks as the information we glean from these assessments will be of greater significance to future instruction.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hornby
Assistant Principal
Kalispell Middle School

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