From:	Mike Thiel
To:	OPI Waivers
Subject:	CRT Waiver
Date:	Tuesday, October 01, 2013 3:11:38 PM
Attachments:	letter.doc

Please find a copy of this letter on letter head attached.

October 1, 2013

Deborah S. Delisle

Assistant Secretary

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

400 Maryland Ave, SW

Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Delisle:

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has proposed to field test the assessments related to the new Smarter Balanced Achievement Consortium reading/language arts and mathematics content areas aligned to rigorous college- and career-ready standards in the spring of the 2013–2014 school year,. Their proposal includes the desire to test all students in Montana in grades 3-8 and 11 with the exceptions of students continuing to take the current Science assessment in grades 4, 8, and 10 and the CRT Alternate assessment for qualifying students with disabilities.

We believe this is good for the students, teachers, and schools in Montana as it will maximize instructional time in our classrooms this school year as well as provide an important opportunity for schools to assess their computer hardware and network infrastructure to identify and respond to gaps and needs. Further we believe this action will offer a critical professional development opportunity for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment in preparation for the official rollout of those assessments in 2015. Also this move will afford the most effective and efficient transition to the 2014-2015 assessment; and equally important students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms today.

We hope that you will give the OPI proposal your serious consideration in as timely a manner as possible as Superintendent Juneau has shared her intent with education leaders

around the state and we are awaiting your decision regarding this request.

Respectfully,

Mike Thiel, President
Kalispell Education Association
1082 Rocky Meadows Trail
Kalispell, MT 59901