From: Dave Smith
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Double Testing Waiver
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:44:53 AM

USED,

I am writing in support of the waiver to be sent from Superintendent Denise Juneau to the U.S. Department of Education to eliminate double testing of Montana students in the spring of 2014. By eliminating the MontCAS (except Science) and including all students in the field test of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), there will be more instructional time for students and less time spent on administration of tests.

I think having all students participate in the field testing of the new SBAC tests will provide valuable experience for students, teachers, and administrators so they will better know what to expect the next year. It is also a good idea to have all our students and schools represented in the field testing to make sure it is well-suited and fair to students in our state.

The decision to move into the Common Core Standards has already been made and it has been an educationally sound decision. Any efforts counter to a successful implementation of CCS is detrimental to the education of our students. By allowing us to move into the SBAC we will acquire necessary knowledge to structure our learning tasks at the end of this year and be well prepared for next year. If forced to complete the CRT's then we lose focus on what has already been decided for the direction of education—Common Core Standards and the SBAC.

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.

Thank you.

David Smith, Principal
Saddle Peak Elementary School
(406)924-2760

BELGRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT