From: jflynn
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: waivers
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:46:07 AM

To OPI officials:

I am writing in support of the waiver to allow Montana students to take only the Smarter Balanced Assessment in the spring of 2014. By eliminating the requirement to take the CRT's, we will allow students to focus on the Smarter Balanced tests and develop familiarity with the test form which will be required in upcoming years. This will also allow for more instruction time by our teachers, since extra days won't be lost to a second full testing effort.

As a testing coordinator in a district which participated in the Smarter Balanced pilot program last spring, I have become increasingly aware of the need for our students to have as much experience as possible with the new testing format, in order for them to be successful in 2014-2015. Last year, the double testing in our district took 6-7 full or partial days out of students' and teachers' instructional time. Approval of the waiver for No Double Testing would eliminate this overload on our students and instructors.

Thank you for your efforts to allow us to focus on the new testing format. Please continue to pursue the No Double Testing waiver.

Jill Flynn
Testing Coordinator
Townsend Schools