From: Mark McMurray
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Duplicate Testing Requirement
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:56:41 AM

All,

I am writing to support the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education from Superintendent Denise Juneau to allow Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) field test in the spring of 2014.

The approved waiver would permit students to take the new online assessment rather than the Montana Criterion Referenced Test (CRT). Eliminating the requirement for the CRT would provide the following benefits to education in Montana:

1. Add instructional time for students by eliminating double testing of students;
2. Test computer hardware and network infrastructure to determine gaps and needs;
3. Provide professional development for teachers as they review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and structure of the SBAC assessment;
4. Provide a more effective and efficient transition to the 2014-2015 assessment; and
5. Students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms.

While I fully support the evaluation of our educational process through the use of standardized testing the requirement that we give a test that is outdated and due to be eliminated is wrong. We all know that no school will reach 100% proficiency and the process has become a joke. To require us to give both the CRT and SBAC is not a good use of our students educational time.

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