From: Grissom, Gordon
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Smarter Balanced Assessments
Date: Monday, September 30, 2013 9:13:55 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

As a principal and educator of a middle school in Montana, 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. Doubling the number of assessments administered to our students is not in the best interest of their learning; the cost does not validate the possible benefits.

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 long-term benefits are inarguable.

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.

Respectfully,
Gordon Grissom
--
Gordon Grissom
Principal
Sacajawea Middle School
406.522.6477