From: Kathy Dunn
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Support Waiver Request
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 7:58:14 AM

I write 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; I spent 36 years in classrooms in Montana and across the nation and overseas. Testing used to be done in the fall and a week of instruction was lost then. The shift to spring testing meant a week was lost in the spring interrupting intense instructional time. A second test in the spring would deprive the students of another week of instructional time. Not wise to have duplicate testing!!!!**
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; THIS REASON IS THE STRONGEST REASON to NOT TEST TWICE!!! Teachers need to know what is going well this year so next year will be better.**
5. **Students will be assessed on the standards being taught in Montana classrooms.**

Respectfully,
Kathy Dunn
Retired Teacher (after 36 years in K-8 settings)
Substitute Teacher - Current
University Supervisor for Student Teachers - Current