From: Andrea Meiers
To: OPI Waivers
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 7:53:11 AM

Good morning,

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. Developmentally, administering high stakes tests to students twice during a single school year is a poor choice and is not in the best interests of students.

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. Further, participating in the SBAC during field testing will ensure we are prepared to administer the tests when they count toward our AYP status.

With implementation of the Common Core, we should be giving an assessment that is aligned. Giving the MontCAS would be unfair to Montana students as we have already aligned instruction to the Common Core standards. Students will be able to demonstrate what they know and can do in relation to the Common Core standards if given the opportunity to participate in 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.

Respectfully,

Andrea Meiers
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"The Laurel School District is dedicated to the individual development of each student every day, without exception."