From: Craig Barringer
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Support for waiver from double testing
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 7:20:50 AM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am writing to support the State Superintendent's request for a waiver of the obligation to administer the CRT test this Spring as our schools begin field testing the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test. I am very much interested in effective assessment of learning but it makes little sense to continue to require the CRT test, which is not aligned with the Board of Public Education's standards, while we are also administering the SBAC test, which is aligned with the Board of Public Education's standards.

Conrad School's devote a lot of time to high quality assessments of our children already, through MAPS tests, STAR tests, and other standards based tests. Having our children take four more days of assessments with the CRT exams is not a productive use of the learning time we have with our students. With MAPS tests and STAR tests we gain far more usable data that result in real student achievement.

This variance request provides the U.S. Department of Education with an opportunity to reduce red tape and increase flexibility for schools as we transition to the SBAC test. If granted, it will allow teachers increased time to focus on instruction under the new standards, rather than on administering duplicative assessments, one of which is no longer aligned with the Montana Board of Public Education's standards.

I respectfully request that you grant the State Superintendent's requested waiver.

Sincerely,

Craig Barringer, Superintendent, Conrad Public Schools