From: Karin Stanford
To: OPI Waivers
Subject: Test Waiver
Date: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 8:34:43 AM

Sirs:

I am writing in support of the waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education from our Superintendent of Public Instruction, Denise Juneau, that would allow Montana students to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium field test in the spring of 2014. This waiver, if approved, would allow students to take the new online assessment instead of the Montana Criterion Referenced Test. There are a number of benefits for students, educators, and education, in general, here in Montana by eliminating the required Criterion Referenced Test. Too much instructional time is wasted with double testing. Educators would have the opportunity for professional development so they will be able to review the delivery, content, vocabulary, and the structure of the Smart Balanced Assessment Consortium test. It would allow for a more efficient and effective transition for the 2014-2015 assessment. Most importantly, students would be assessed on the standards being taught in our Montana classrooms. Please grant this waiver.

Thank you,

Karin Stanford