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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

TO: Board of Public Education

FROM: Assessment Oversight Committee

DATE: March 10, 2005

RE: Recommendation of the Future of the Norm-Referenced Tests (NRT)---the Iowa Tests

The oversight committee met to discuss previous recommendations and information regarding the future of the NRT. In addition, it reviewed data from the 2004 and 2005 surveys regarding moving the NRT to the fall of the year. Despite two survey windows, the response was not large enough to provide generalizable guidance.

Attending the meeting:

- Cal Gilbert, Diane Fladmo, and Kirk Miller--Board of Public Education (John Fuller was unable to attend)
- Madalyn Quinlan, Bud Williams, and Judy Snow--Office of Public Instruction
- Dr. Wes Snyder, University of Montana consultant

The committee considered the following five options for continuation of the NRT in grades 4, 8, and 11 in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science within the final two year extension of the contract with Riverside Publishing Company:

1. Continue the NRT in the spring for two more years (2006 and 2007).
2. Move the NRT to the fall and administer it in the fall of 2006 and 2007.
3. Administer the NRT in the spring of 2006 and the fall of 2006.
4. Administer the NRT in the spring of 2006 and the fall of 2006.
 - a. In the fall of 2006, the NRT would be given to a sample of students.
 - b. In the fall of 2006, schools and districts who wish to give the test would be included. They may or may not be part of the sample.
 - c. All schools and districts that participate would receive reports.
 - d. Publication of results would be for the sample.
5. Modification of option four: Administer the NRT according to option four, contingent upon the results of a sampling study that would examine sampling methodology as it applies to the needs of Montana.

The committee recommends option five.

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March 8, 2005