

Current Maine DOE Funding for Substance Use Prevention in Schools

SUD Prevention efforts currently funded through Maine DOE:

- 1) BARR (Building Assets Reducing Risks)
 - BARR model is currently in 96 schools in the State of Maine
 - BARR follows a 3-year implementation schedule which includes training and ongoing coaching. After 3 years schools can opt-in to minimal support or not.
 - SY 23/24 Maine DOE fully funded 71 schools through American Rescue Plan Act
 - SY 24/25 extended for all current schools and added new schools reaching 96 in total to be fully funded through a late liquidation of American Rescue Plan Act.
 - \$80,000/school for each of the 3 implementation years (\$240,000/school for 3 years)
 - After SY 24/25, there is no funding to support BARR in schools outside of local funding (which may be available in some wealthier communities but not in most).

Maine DOE is actively seeking funding to support a BARR expansion across the state for SY 25/26 (and beyond). Data collected from participating schools shows consistent increase in attendance and engagement and decreases in discipline referrals.

*attachment included about BARR as a prevention model

- 2) K-12 Mental Health Modules through SEL4ME Platform: This programming includes specific SUD prevention modules. Launched in October 2022.
- 3) Hired a Social Emotional Learning implementation specialist through ESSER funding to provide direct technical support and expertise in schools. TA is adapted to meet the needs of the SAU, *position funded through Summer 2024.*

In development but not currently funded:

Provide Model Sample District Policy in:

- a. Mental Health Infrastructure
- b. Mental Health School-Based Screenings and Preventive Services

Enhance Mental Health Support Systems

- c. Improving Systems for Monitoring public health priorities through Data Collection- Access to meaningful data (EHR)
- d. Improve utilization of MaineCare to support School Health Services

- e. Continue to build relationships within state to identify and increase the capacity of mental health resources available to school districts-build package for SAU's to access-
- f. Promote identification strategies and referral processes for at-risk students:
 - i. Safe Systems for reporting incidences of Bullying, Violence, Suicidal thoughts, etc. for example: Say Something Initiative
 - ii. Universal screening: Mental Health Screening Tools for Grades K-12
 - iii. Collaborate to support increased access to care through expansion of telehealth services in schools for mental health

Related Maine Learning Results:

Standards 1 - Health Concepts

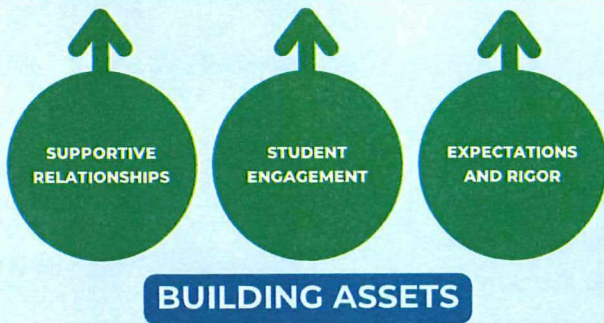
Standard 2 - Health Information, Products, and Services

Standard 3 - Health Promotion and Risk Reduction

Standard 4 - Influences on Health

Standard 5 - Communication and Advocacy Skills

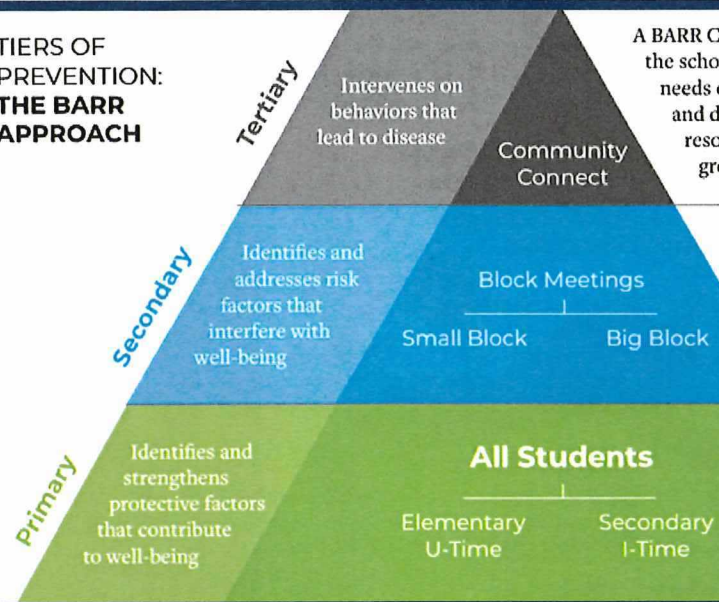
Standard 6 - Decision-Making and Goal-Setting Skills



REDUCING RISKS



TIERS OF PREVENTION: THE BARR APPROACH

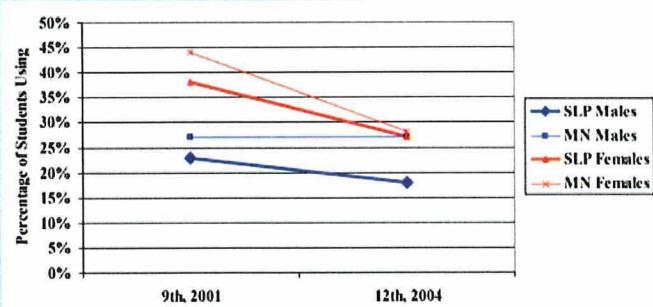


A BARR Community Connect team consists of several stakeholders within the school and community. Team members develop strategies to meet the needs of students and their families by capitalizing on students' strengths and devoting significant time in determining the appropriate community resources for the intervention strategy. Early identification and referral greatly reduces the likelihood of risk behaviors becoming the norm.

Known as Block Meetings, educators meet in "Small Blocks" and "Big Blocks" to discuss the status, strengths, progress, and possible interventions for every student. These meetings serve to ensure every student receives necessary support and care. These meetings also allow teachers to perceive their students in a different light, one provided by their colleagues.

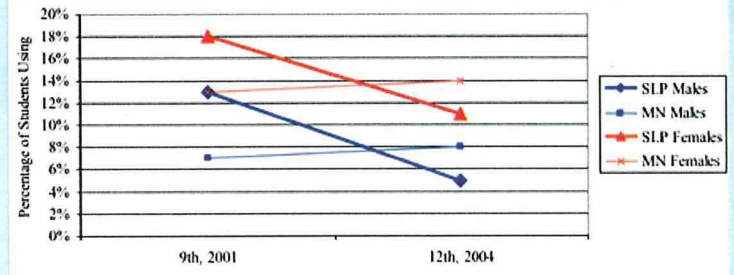
Within the BARR system, students participate in lessons focused on building intentional relationships and fostering individual learning. This supports students' determination to overcome obstacles, enhanced self-esteem, and increased academic success, problem-solving skills, and self-regulation.

CHART 12 - Thoughts of Suicide



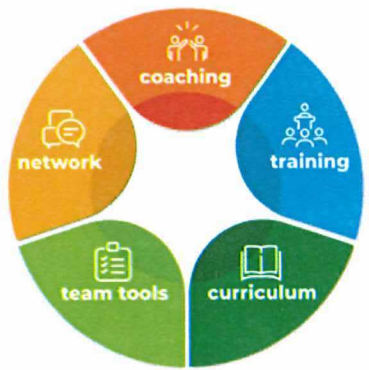
It is in reported *attempts* at suicide, however, the Building Assets Reducing Risks has had its most breathtaking sustainability. Chart 13 shows that while suicide attempts in Minnesota increased slightly from 9th-grade through 12th-grade in the class of 2004, at St. Louis Park High School, this behavior was in sharp decline.

CHART 13 - Attempted Suicide



Among both high school boys and high school girls, attempted suicide increased by one percent from 2001 to 2004. At St. Louis Park H. S., attempts at suicide were reduced from 13% to 5% among the boys and from 18% to 11% among the girls. **Both of these declines were accomplished at a time when students in other Minnesota high schools were reporting suicide attempts at a slightly increased rate.**

From Strong Implementation to Sustainability and Success



What the BARR Center provides over three-years:

- **Coaching:** experienced former educator who guides the BARR implementation process and the professional development of staff to ensure success.
- **Training:** on-site training that aligns the BARR system with existing school structures while building educators' expertise and a strong community of trust.
- **Curriculum:** content focused on building intentional student-to-student and teacher-to-student relationships that transform how teachers and students interact.
- **Tools:** a collection of processes, protocols, and resources used to develop a strength-based system specific to each school.
- **Network of Schools:** BARR educators across the nation build meaningful peer-to-peer relationships and share ideas to further student success.

Building Assets Reducing Risks

BARR is a K-12 coaching and training partner with a quarter-century track record of raising student math and reading scores, improving attendance, increasing teacher satisfaction and retention, and decreasing student disciplinary incidents and suspensions. BARR believes that students and educators are incredibly talented and thrive when we provide a system where they can realize their talents.



BARR
Same Students.
Same Teachers.
Better Results.

"Prior to BARR, when we would often have meetings about students we would focus on deficits and look at what wasn't happening and BARR has really helped us to look at the students' strengths and take it from a very much a strengths-based perspective and that has completely changed the tone of Block meetings and our teacher-student meetings."

Brian Jones, Principal
Marshall High School, Minnesota

FOCUSED UPSTREAM

BARR students feel supported, engaged and believe in themselves



271k+
The number of students who have benefited from the BARR system.



BARR reduces failure rates by an average of **35%**



BARR is implemented in 24 states and counting.

barrcenter.org



RESEARCH & EVALUATION

25 YEARS
of research and development

78 SCHOOLS
involved in randomized controlled trial research

20 AREAS
of statistically significant outcomes



The BARR model is the first and only school improvement intervention to successfully climb the three tiers of evidence required under the Investing in Innovation (i3) program.



The BARR model has met the Evidence for ESSA requirements for "strong evidence" four times in reading and math impacts and one time in social-emotional learning.



BARR is included in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.



The U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse review concluded that BARR's research "met evidence standards without reservation," the highest possible WWC rating, in three



BARR received the 2014 ACT College and Career Transition Award.