

# BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) Investing in Innovation (i3)

BARR is the first and only school-improvement model to successfully climb the three tiers of evidence under the U.S. Department of Education's Investing in Innovation (i3) program.

2010

DEVELOPMENT  
GRANT

2 schools | 53 teachers | 764 students  
1 within school randomized controlled trial (RCT);  
1 quasi-experimental

**Can a model from the field be rigorously tested and replicated?**



**YES**

- Failure rate decreased
- Average GPA improved
- Standardized test scores in math and reading increased
- Most significant impacts on students of color
- Increased positive teacher mindset

2013

VALIDATION  
GRANT

11 schools | 113 teachers | 4,168 students  
Within school RCTs

**Can it be validated in a variety of settings?**



**YES**

- Maintained student academic results
- Improved student attendance
- Decreased student behavioral issues
- Enhanced student nonacademic skills
- Enhanced collaboration amongst teachers and better use of data
- Increased positive relationships between teachers and students

2016

SCALE-UP  
GRANT

66 schools | 524 teachers | 21,529 students  
Between school RCT

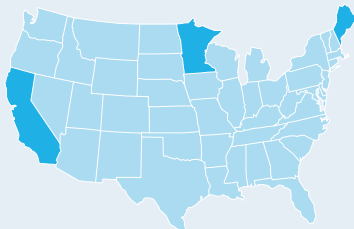
**Can it be scaled to serve many schools throughout the nation?**



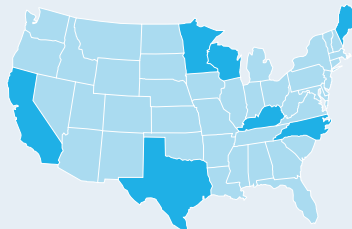
**YES**

- Maintained positive student and teacher outcomes
- Created a portfolio of tools and rubrics to scale with fidelity
- Assembled a national network of regional coaches and mentors
- Built the BARR Center, a sustainable organizational infrastructure

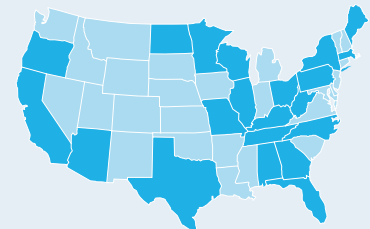
**Research supports our evidence base in a wide range of schools and communities – urban, rural, suburban, geographically dispersed, union and non-unionized.**



**3,100** students served



**17,000** students served



**210,000+** students served



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 separate studies.



American Institutes for Research, independent evaluators

BARR changes school systems. At a panel entitled "Schools Generating Evidence" at the 2022 BARR National Conference, AIR's Principal Investigator Dr. Johannes Bos stated that he had **"never seen study effects of this size"** in any previous work he had done. Dr. Beth Boulay, Principal Associate at Abt Global, emphasized that, "the evidence comes from schools that are real world schools with real challenges and issues." Ultimately, this evidence demonstrated that BARR can help schools achieve better results.



Same students. Same teachers. **Better results.**

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The BARR model has met the Evidence for ESSA requirements for "strong evidence" four times in reading and math impacts.



BARR was included in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), which was discontinued as of January 2018.



BARR received the 2014 ACT College and Career Transition Award.

# BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks)

## Investing in Innovation (i3) | Scale-Up Grant

Can BARR be scaled to serve many schools throughout the nation? Will the results hold?

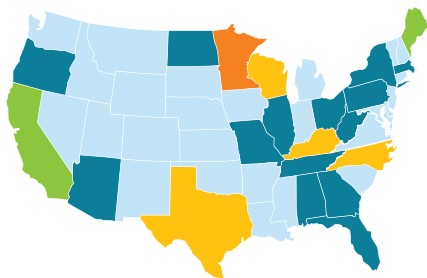
66 schools | 524 teachers | 21,529 students | Between school randomized controlled trial (RCT)



**Goal:** Expand nationally and address barriers to scale



- ✓ Assembled a national network of regional coaches and mentors.
- ✓ Created rubrics and tools for coaches to support the diverse needs of schools.
- ✓ Launched a school accreditation process to formally certify schools implementing the BARR model over multiple years.



"Implementation of BARR is possible in many different scenarios. It's a program that is **robust to context**... It doesn't matter whether it is a large school or a small school or an urban school or rural school. It doesn't matter what the particular challenges or assets that my school has. This program seems to work across the board."

Dr. Johannes Bos, AIR Principal Investigator

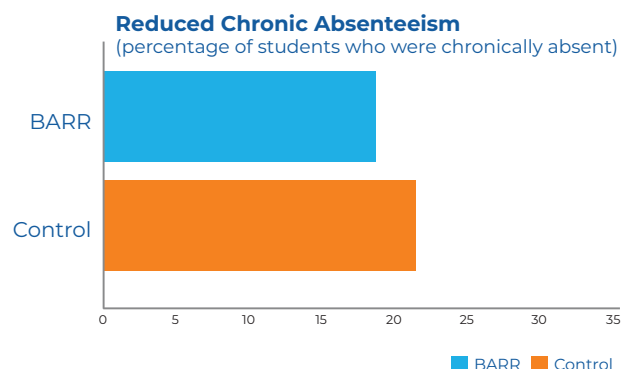
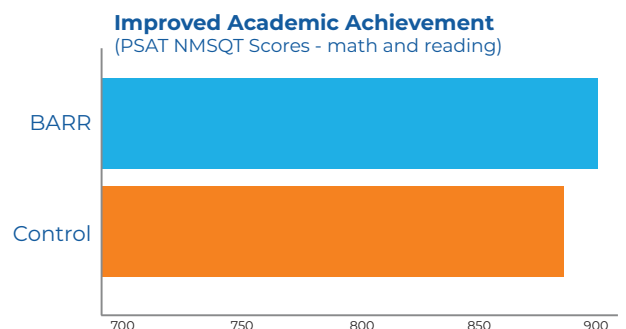
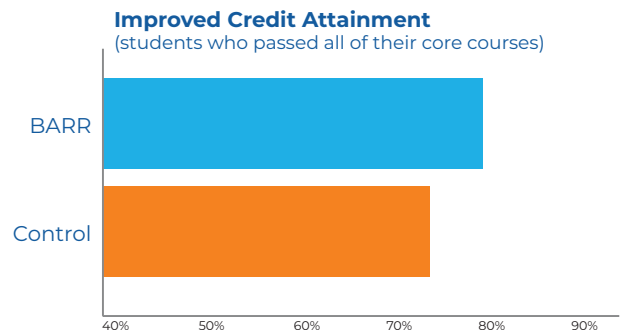
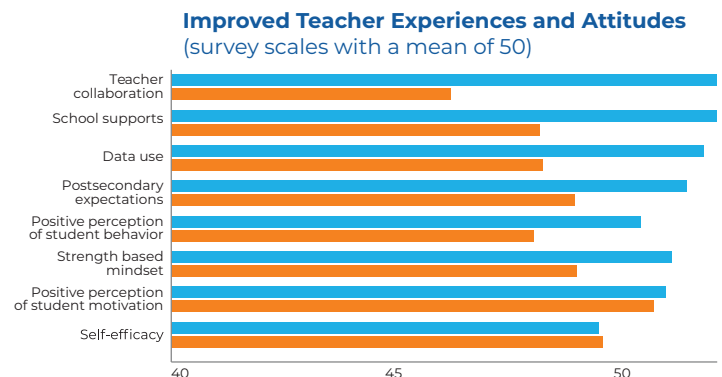


Same students. Same teachers. **Better results.**

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**Goal:** Increase educational achievement, enhance non academic skills, improve school climate



■ BARR ■ Control