

Denfeld High School BARR Program Update

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OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

What is BARR?

- Building Assets Reducing Risks
- Developed in St. Louis Park, MN in 1998 due to concerns with 9th grade course failure
- Based on 40 Developmental Assets research from MN based Search Institute
- Now a nationwide evidence based best practice in 350 schools, impacting 360,000 students in 24 states and Washington, D.C. and growing
- Essentially create teams of students and teachers within identified grade(s) who meet weekly to review real time **data** to determine tiered interventions as well as deliver weekly “I Time” SEL (Social Emotional Lessons) to build **relationships**.
- **Data and Relationships are the 2 pillars on which BARR is built.**
- **Meets the district’s mission, vision and core values!**

BARR's 8 Interlocking Strategies



Focus on the whole student



Hold regular meetings of the cohort teacher teams



Provide professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators



Conduct risk review meetings



Use BARR's I-Time Curriculum to foster a climate for learning



Engage families in student learning



Create cohorts of students



Engage administrators

2024-25 BARR Data

1st Quarter: 9th Grade (34%)

10th Grade (34%)

2nd Quarter: 9th Grade (44%)

10th Grade (34%)

Semester: 9th Grade (34%) (38% pre-intervention)

10th Grade (33%)

3rd Quarter: Coming soon!

Historic Trends with BARR Data

- Prior to BARR, 9th Grade failure rates were around 49%.
- With BARR, prior to pandemic, rates hovered between 30-35%
- During pandemic, rates rose to 50-60%
- Since pandemic, rates for 9th and 10th have returned to 30-35%

Denfeld's traditional response has been to host Pause Days to reduce course failure. Students who need additional support remain in class with their teacher, students that don't go to the Media Center with our BARR Coordinator. This intervention traditionally brings failure rate down 15% in the weeks prior to quarter/semester end.

Pause Days continue this year and other interventions are now being developed based on our data analysis as you will see on the next slide.

Data Analysis Leads to Interventions this Year

- **Academic Skills for Success section for Sophomores** created at semester time when a section of math was collapsed
- **1st Semester 9th Grade Rescue Mission** - During the Feb. 12 Opportunity Day, students who had a 1st Semester course failure with a grade between 50 - 59% recovered 45 semester credits!
- **3rd Quarter 9th Grade Rescue Mission** - During the March 26 Opportunity Day, students who were going to fail 3rd Quarter with a grade between 50 - 59% completed work to pass. 75% of identified students participated. The data is being finalized this week.
- **Rescue Mission for students in Grades 10 -12** over spring break at both AICHO and NYS Inc. for those students with 3rd Quarter grades between 50 - 59% completed work to pass. The data is being finalized this week.

*None of this would be possible without collaboration with our partners in the Community Schools as well as staff members willing to pitch in as well as take risks and trust the process!

Data Analysis Leads to Innovation

During the 2023-24 school year, BARR data was instrumental in several innovations:

- Indigenous Cohort
- Summer Transition Academy - Held for 3 weeks in August last year. 12 Students earned a full credit (.5 Civics & .5 Phy Ed) before 9th grade even started this year!
- Functional Academics Special Education Program created for students who do not qualify for more support but who are not receiving enough

Most Recent Coaching Report

As you can see, Denfeld is fully implemented and continues to refine our practice with the guidance of our Coordinator, Jenny Wellnitz and feedback from our BARR Coach, Angie Johnson.



One recommendation from our coach to improve our Contextual Support was to share information about BARR with the School Board which is why we're here!

What does BARR take to be successful?

- District Support - thank you for financial support with our BARR contract as well as systematic support with BARR as a PLC over the years.
 - Building Commitment (see next slide)
 - Coordinator Leadership (1.0 FTE)
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- **Dedicated Teachers and Support Staff willing to dig in, persevere and trust us as we evolve!**
 - **Students and Families willing to take this journey with us as we evolve!**

Thrive by BARR

Denfeld has been annual subscription with BARR for \$35,000 which is funded with compensatory education and provides the following benefits:

- Biweekly calls and 24/7 availability with coach
- 2 onsite coaching visits
- BARR Recognition as a National School of Excellence **which Denfeld is!**
- New team member training for 5 staff annually
- BARR Network Membership benefits including PLCs for administrator & coordinator and member pricing for annual BARR Conference (As a School of Excellence we can send two staff for free each year.)
- Continued access to online BARR Member Portal for things like “I Time” SEL Curriculum

Next steps:

Thank you for adding 2 District / Admin led PLCs per month for a total of 6 has allowed our BARR Program to continue as a PLC by allowing:

- 1 Small Block meeting (just teachers on that team)
- 2 Big Block Meeting (teachers + support staff)
- 2 Content PLCs (integrates BARR teachers w/ non-BARR peers)
- 1 all BARR monthly meeting

Our ask: move to total minutes and away from a set number of meetings per month to increase flexibility to fully implement the BARR model at Denfeld while adhering to the contract with small block meetings.



Questions?

- Any questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Feedback?