

JUNE 2019

BARR CENTER

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Overview

ABOUT

The BARR Center (BARR) ensures all students have access to a high-quality education where adults know them personally, recognize their strengths and help them succeed. BARR equips schools to empower teachers and administrators to build deep relationships with students and harness the power of data to increase academic, social and emotional outcomes.

WHY WE INVESTED

BARR is a time-bound, whole-school support model that provides a comprehensive approach to meeting students' needs. Over the course of three years, the organization equips schools with sustainable tools, processes and mindsets to provide holistic supports to students that address their social, emotional, and academic needs. The model is backed by three randomized controlled trials – the gold standard of evaluation – that demonstrate statistically significant impacts on teachers' behaviors, students' attitudes and key academic outcomes. Of note, BARR students who qualify for free and reduced lunch were nearly 50% more likely to pass all core courses than the comparison group. BARR's founder and executive director, Angela Jerabek, brings deep programmatic expertise paired with visionary leadership, which has enabled the organization to significantly expand while codifying the model and maintaining quality. Jerabek has established a talented and committed management team, many of whom have been with the organization for more than a decade.



GRANTEE SINCE

2019

INVESTMENT TO DATE

\$200K

CURRENT NUMBER SERVED

612

LEADERSHIP

Angela Jerabek
Executive Director

Our Assessment



PROGRAM

Ninth grade is a pivotal year in setting students up for long-term academic success. Students who are on track in freshman year (defined as failing no more than one semester of a core course and earning five course credits) are three times more likely to graduate from high school. Unfortunately, many students struggle in the transition to high school. Research shows that, regardless of prior performance, students' grades and attendance drop in ninth grade. BARR is uniquely positioned to address key challenges students face in this transition. Through a three-year, whole-school support model, BARR equips schools with the tools, processes and mindsets to provide holistic supports that address students' social, emotional and academic needs, ultimately increasing their academic success. Through three randomized controlled trials – the gold standard of evaluation – BARR has demonstrated its impact on teacher practices and mindsets, student behaviors and student outcomes. Of note, BARR students were 35% more likely to pass all core courses than the comparison group. This rate was even higher (50%) for students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.



LEADERSHIP

BARR Executive Director Angela Jerabek founded the model in 1998 as a school counselor. At the time, she was seeking to address high dropout rates at her school. After seeing the impact at one site, Jerabek established BARR as its own entity and sought to expand and prove the model in new contexts. Jerabek pairs deep programmatic expertise with strategic thinking to elevate the organization, and she is poised to take BARR through its next phase of growth. Jerabek is supported by a lean but highly capable management team that BARR seeks to grow in the coming year. The management team holds a high bar for impact and is deeply committed to continuously improving the model to address changing needs. BARR recently established a governing board and will develop a long-term vision and strategy for the board in the coming years.

Our Assessment



OPERATIONS

BARR has a unique operating model, having primarily relied on one major federal funding source – the Investing in Innovation (i3) program – to support its development and growth over the last decade. Last year, i3 funding comprised approximately 94% of a \$6.9M budget. In the coming years, to ensure it sustains its current footprint and is poised for future growth, BARR seeks to diversify its funding streams. The organization is implementing a new strategy to increase fundraising from public and private contributions and expand its fee-for-service model. We believe diversifying its funding now will position BARR to more easily weather the transition from i3 making up a majority of its funding. Long-term, this will support the organization's growth and sustainability. In the coming year, BARR also seeks to bring previously out-sourced areas, like financial management and human resource, in house. To prepare for this, the organization is building out its infrastructure, policies and practices.



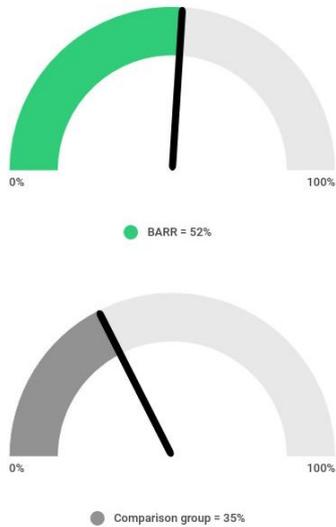
SCALE

Over the last decade, BARR has expanded from one school in Minneapolis to more than 100 schools across 15 states. This year, the organization is serving three schools in Chicago. BARR seeks to double its growth nationally in the next three years, and Chicago is a primary focus for this growth. Regionally, BARR aspires to serve 22 schools by 2022. Even if BARR does not meet this ambitious goal, we are confident the organization can significantly expand in the next few years. We estimate that BARR has a conservative, addressable market of 40 schools, which represents between 11,000 to 20,000 seats, depending on the school size. The organization is well positioned to capitalize on this market with a highly cost-effective model—it costs only \$150K over three years to transform a school's practices and outcomes. In the years ahead, we are confident BARR will build on its impressive track record to date in Chicago and are working closely with the organization to ensure it has the strategies in place to scale. .

Grantee Performance

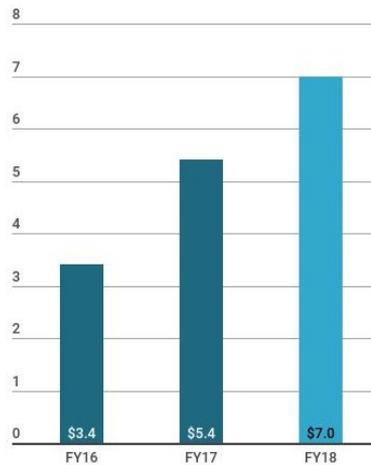
KEY OUTCOME

Percent of 9th graders passing all core courses (nationally)



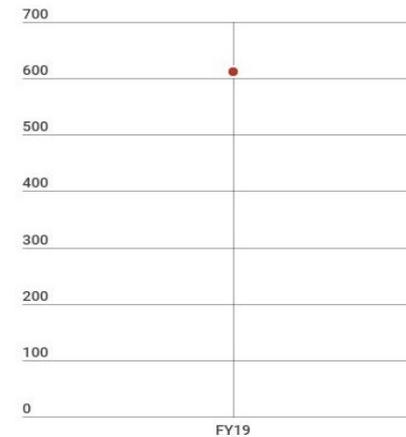
REVENUE

In millions (nationally)



SCALE

Students served (locally)



Our Impact

INVESTMENT TO DATE



MANAGEMENT SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Investment launched in March 2019. Management support project to begin later this year.

Contact Us

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