

Same Students. Same Teachers. Better Results. Scaling Up the Validated BARR Model

Project Abstract

Spurwink is applying for i3 scale-up funding to expand the validated Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR) model, an innovative, data-driven strategy to improve student academic achievement in high schools. The proposed project will address **Absolute Priority 3: Improving Low-Performing Schools** and **Competitive Priority 5: Broad Adoption of Effective Practices**. The scale-up grant will enable BARR to build on its momentum and become a national presence as a proven school turnaround model following the philosophy of *Same Students. Same Teachers. Better Results*. BARR gives schools a comprehensive approach to meeting students' academic, social, and emotional needs. BARR helps educators better connect with students and address issues that cause students to fail courses, drop out, and/or engage in harmful behavior. BARR targets the critical time of ninth grade, but impacts the whole school system through training, coaching, and materials for the entire staff. Fundamental elements of the approach are creating positive, intentional relationships between staff and students, collaborative problem solving by teacher teams, and using real-time student data to guide instructional action. Spurwink will continue to partner with Hazelden Betty Ford Publishing and American Institutes for Research to ensure strategies are implemented for widespread adoption of the BARR model and the impact on the highest need students is assessed. Prior BARR i3 development and validation grants have produced significant improvement in course credits earned and standardized test scores. The scale-up grant will support a randomized controlled trial study of the BARR model in 66 low-performing schools, and BARR implementation in an additional 50 schools (116 total), impacting an estimated 146,250 students and 11,600 teachers. This growth will occur through establishing infrastructure and staffing in regional centers to serve as hubs for expansion across the country to schools that need it the most.