

Armstrong High School

Robbinsdale Area Schools
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Plymouth, MN 55441
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Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair
Education Finance
January 31, 2023

Dear Chair Kunesh and Education Finance Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to reach out on behalf of Armstrong High School in the Robbinsdale school district to express support for SF 494, Senator Putnam's bill to allocate funding for more Minnesota educators and students to benefit from the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) system.

The same year that I became principal at Armstrong High School in 2018-19, we began implementing the BARR system through a federal research grant. Since then, our **graduation rate has increased nearly 4%** from 88.3% in 2018 to 92.2% in 2021. Our educators have worked incredibly hard to make this positive change. The BARR system has been the framework by which we were able to do so – helping us to scale many successful interventions to support higher credit completion, implement mentorship programs, and increase engagement in school activities.

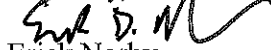
BARR also provides student survey tools to gauge student engagement, school connection, and help us identify and respond to any mental health red flags. Since bringing the BARR system into our school, **our BIPOC students have self-reported feeling more of a sense of belonging and stronger relationships at school.**

As Minnesota educators we are directly familiar with the BARR system and the impact it has on educators and students, and we believe expanding access to the BARR system is the right solution at the right time.

We are grateful to Senator Putnam for taking up this important issue. Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

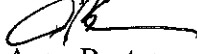
Please support SF 494. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erick Norby

Principal



Anne Beaton

Teacher and BARR Coordinator



Tim Lloyd

Math Teacher and BARR Coordinator



Believe. Belong. Become.