

Dear Co-Chairs Rarick and Kunesh, and members of the Senate Committee on Education Finance,

As you prepare to hear the results of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group (SATL) Report, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify last summer to the SATL Study Group about how the BARR Model – in partnership with 46 schools – is reducing chronic absenteeism across the state. This includes the 18 schools funded by the 2023 legislation.

BARR is an evidence-based solution to reducing chronic absenteeism, which is just one of its 20 statistically-significant outcomes for students and teachers.

### **Evidence in Practice - Detroit Lakes**

I am also grateful to Josh Omang, Principal at Detroit Lakes High School in northwestern Minnesota for joining me to testify to the results BARR has helped his school achieve, especially with chronic absenteeism. He has testified several times before as to the impact the BARR Model is having at Detroit Lakes, and is grateful that with funding from the legislature in 2023, the district was able to expand the model to their middle school.

Principal Omang (cc'd) shared some amazing data:

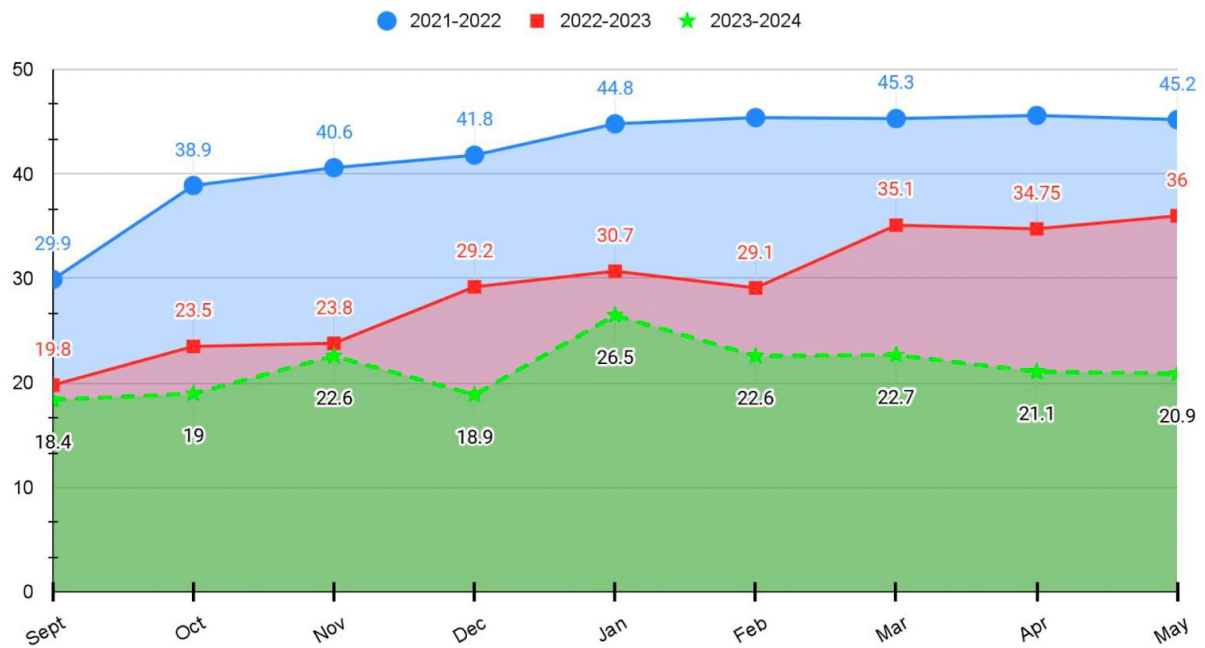
- DLHS has approximately 850 students, 15% of whom identify as Native American.
- Overall chronic absenteeism has gone down from 45% at the end of the 2021-22 school year to 21% at the end of the 2023-24 school year.
- Teachers, administrators and staff achieved this through BARR by:
  - Utilizing a strengths-based approach where the gifts and talents of all students are seen and valued, rather than their deficits
  - Staff working incredibly hard to build relationships and use real-time data to get at root causes of why kids were missing school
  - Enhancing communication and partnership with families to intervene early and effectively if students begin to miss school
  - Utilizing BARR's Community Connect structure to engage community and county resources to address systemic barriers to kids coming to school

As Principal Omang shared in his testimony and in several presentations to other principals across the state, BARR engages all adults in the building and creates a system and structure so that all programs, initiatives and curriculum work in alignment. Below is Detroit Lake's incredible data and results.

We are happy to answer any further questions regarding how BARR is helping schools achieve these incredible outcomes with the same students and same teachers.

Angie Jerabek, Executive Director, BARR Center, [angela.jerabek@barrcenter.org](mailto:angela.jerabek@barrcenter.org)

### Percent of Students Chronically Absent by Month 2021-Present



### Total Students Chronically Absent 2021-2024

