**APPLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**
A STEM school dedicated to
Academics, Arts & Athletics

**Drew Mons**
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Senate E-12 Finance Committee
Senator Mary Kunesh, Chair

March 3, 2025

Re: Support SF 551
Author: Senator Putnam
Coauthors: Senators Duckworth, Cwodzinski, Housley and Frentz

Dear Chair Kunesh and Senate E-12 Finance Committee Members,

We are reaching out to you on behalf of Apple Valley High School in the 196 School District to express strong support for SF 551, Senator Putnam's bill to allocate funding so additional Minnesota students and educators can benefit from the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model. BARR is a framework that is focused on the whole student and has helped us build a positive school culture for both students and staff.

Since August 2022, Apple Valley High School began implementing the BARR model and we have seen improvements in several areas including grades, attendance, and failure rates.

- **AVHS experienced a 5.2% drop** in students receiving one or more F grades from 2022-23 to 2023-24, compared to a **1.4% decrease** across District 196 high schools. The impact was even greater for **Black/African American students**, with a **9.5% decrease**, compared to a **2% decrease** districtwide.
- Participants consistently noted that **the support provided by BARR teachers was instrumental in boosting their confidence and their ability to communicate effectively**, empowering them to take a proactive approach to their learning.
- **Students also highlighted** the value of **communication and leadership skills**, recognizing their critical role in **fostering self-awareness and social connections** both within the classroom and across the broader school community.

Everything we were already doing works better in the BARR system.

BARR is exactly what Minnesota schools need at this time. We are grateful to Senator Putnam for taking up this important issue and for Senators Duckworth, Cwodzinski, Housley and Frentz for coauthoring. We urge you to support SF 511.

Sincerely,

Drew Mons
Principal