

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

May 11, 2010

Secretary Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education  
United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20202

To Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to urge your strong consideration of the proposal submitted by Search Institute and its four school district partners, including St. Louis Park Public School District in Minnesota. Search Institute is pursuing a development grant to expand and replicate the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) program.

The purpose of BAAR is to reduce academic failure, truancy rates, disciplinary incidents, and alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among 9th graders. For 12 years, this program has been implemented, evaluated and demonstrated positive results in reducing risk behaviors (i.e. failures, illegal substance use, truancy) and increasing thriving behaviors. Academic failure rates have noticeably declined and the achievement gap has been narrowed, including at its original site of Saint Louis Park High School in Minnesota. i3 funding will extend the reach of BARR in St. Louis Park High School to grades 10,11 and 12 and incorporate college and career readiness components into its existing program. Building on Search Institute's 20+ years of experience, this proposal has qualified personnel and school leaders who are ready and committed to its successful implementation.

For the reasons above, I urge your strong consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Hang at 651-221-1016 or by email at [amy\\_hang@franken.senate.gov](mailto:amy_hang@franken.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Al Franken  
United States Senator