

AMY KLOBUCHAR
MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2010

Secretary Arne Duncan
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue South West
Washington, DC 20202

Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to urge your strong consideration of the grant proposal being submitted by Search Institute, in partnership with four public school districts, including the St. Louis Park district, in the amount of \$5 million over four years. The funding will be used to expand the Building Assets, Reducing Risks Program (BARR).

BARR is a comprehensive program proven to reduce academic failure, truancy rates, disciplinary incidents, and alcohol and drug abuse among ninth grade students. BARR focuses on creating caring and supportive relationships with students that help them meet academic expectations. In the twelve years this program has been in review by the Minnesota Institute of Public Health, BARR has been proven to reduce risk behaviors (drugs, alcohol, and truancy) as well as the rates of academic failure. As a result it is listed in the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs. The BARR program initially targeted teens during the transitional period of ninth grade and this grant will be used to expand BARR through the rest of the high school grades and add a college- and career-readiness component.

As a United States Senator, and a parent of a public school student, I believe that a quality education is the right of every child. This is not limited to a rigorous academic curriculum; it also means having a healthy and supportive environment to reinforce academics and encourage students to succeed.

For the reasons stated above, I encourage your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jake Spano in my Minnesota office at (612)-6727-5220 or by email at jake_spano@klobuchar.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator