

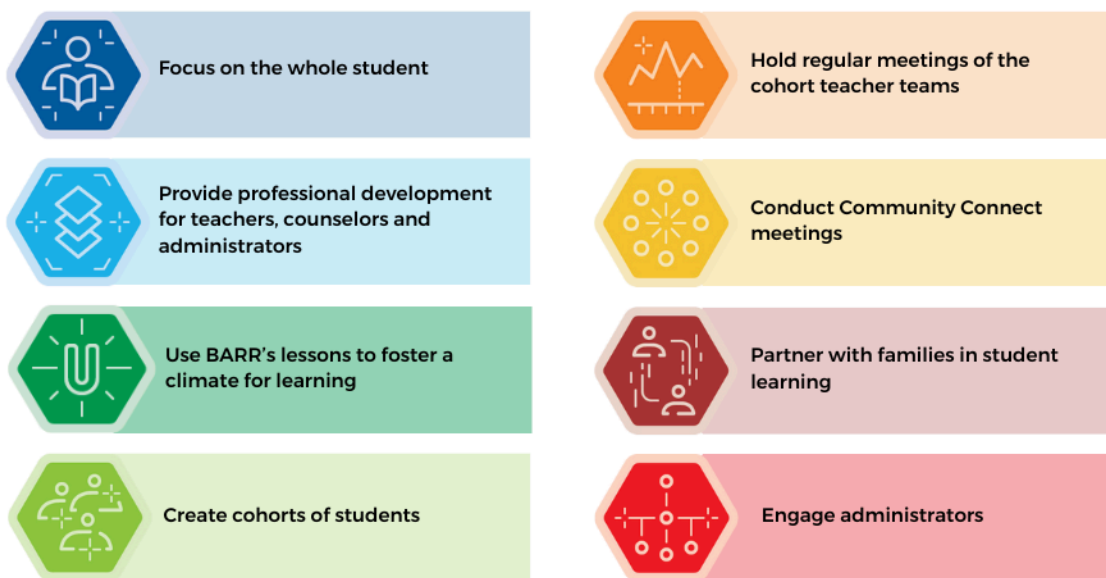
BARR Family/Caregiver Handout

What is BARR?

BARR — Building Assets, Reducing Risks — is an evidence-based system that provides our school with a strength-based comprehensive approach to meeting the academic and non-academic needs of each and every student. Through BARR, we work to harness the power of relationships and data to remove barriers to learning and ensure that all students are supported.

At Stratton School, all teachers and staff are grouped into Small Block (grade span pods) and Big Block (cross grade) teams. These teacher teams meet throughout the week to monitor student progress, identify strengths and consider ways to support and challenge all students. Each week, our principal, school social worker, and BARR coordinator meet with teacher teams to offer additional support for students and provide recognition for students' unique strengths and talents.

The BARR Model



BARR is the framework that provides us the opportunity to get to know each of our student's strengths and interests during a critical transition time in their education. As educators, we leverage the knowledge we gain through relationship building and U-Time(grades K-5)/I-Time(grades 6-8) activities in order to better engage and challenge our students.



What are these U-Time/I-Time lessons my student talks about?

Once a week, teachers will facilitate a U-Time/I-Time lesson. The goal of U-Time/I-Time is to strengthen student-to-student and staff-to-student relationships and build classroom community. Important topics they will explore together include: building community, goal setting, stress management, bullying, and communication skills.

How does BARR benefit my student?

BARR educators focus on your child as more than just a learner – we work to understand them as a whole child. They are trained to use strength-based techniques to build positive relationships and support each student toward success in the classroom and beyond. Staff are provided with ongoing professional development on the BARR system. The BARR system has a 20-year track record of student success and has been proven to drive significant improvements in school climate measures, and standardized test scores. BARR has narrowed opportunity gaps and shown decreases in behavior referrals and absenteeism.

What they're saying

"From a parent perspective, we get to see that the teachers are really connecting with the students... They take an interest in students above and beyond academics. To me, that's what makes it - when my kids come home and they are so excited because a teacher gave them a nickname. From then on, math is awesome, and they are motivated." - *Carrie, BARR parent*

"Grades are a good indicator of how a student is doing, but if you just look at grades, you miss a lot of things: social changes, friend-group changes, attendance, health, all of a sudden a student is getting too skinny ... It's like a puzzle, and everybody holds a piece of the puzzle, so when we are all together, we can see the whole kid." - *Janice, BARR educator*

"BARR has enabled me to deepen my relationships with my students and families. It has also provided a structure that encourages me to collect and use data with purpose." - *Kelly, BARR educator* learn more about BARR, visit www.barrcenter.org.

If you have questions or want more information about BARR at Stratton School, please contact BARR Coordinator Jesse Hughes, jhughes@strattonschool.org, (207)246-2283.