**Environmental Support**

Environmental support encompasses organizational support as well as broader community and political support. Having supportive leaders or “champions” of a program is often cited as one of the most important factors for successful program implementation and sustainability. In the area of school health, the presence of a school health champion is integral to leadership, modeling and job-alike support.

Key components include:

* Champions exist who strongly support the program.
* The program has strong champions with the ability to garner resources.
* The program has leadership support from within the organization (e.g. school, district levels).
* The program has strong public/community support.
* Leadership and champions believe that healthy kids learn better, and support whole child strategies to academic achievement.
* The program is integrated into staff professional development.
* The program is strategically aligned to local, state and federal educational accountability measures.