**Program Adaptation**

Regardless of a program’s ability to support the continued implementation of a program, research indicates that it is unlikely to be sustained if it does not meet the needs of the intended audience.[[1]](#footnote-1) Highly sustained organizations are constantly evolving through lessons learned, evaluation findings and ongoing needs assessments.

While adaptation is important for sustainability, it is critical for the program to clearly articulate what components must be in place for the program to be considered “sustained”. In other words, what is the threshold for adaptation, and what components must be implemented to fidelity?

Key components of program adaptability include:

* Program allows adaptability for each school/district
* The program periodically reviews the evidence base.
* The program adapts strategies as needed.
* The program adapts to new science.
* The program proactively adapts to changes in the social, political, and cultural environments
* The program makes decisions about what components are ineffective and should not continue.

1. Johnson K, Hayes C, Center H, Daley C. Building capacity and sustainable prevention innovations: a sustainability planning model. *Evaluation Program Planning* 2004, 27(2), 135-49. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)