Choosing the right intervention(s) is an important part of school climate improvements. The intervention does not have to be a program, although choosing an evidence-based program is one option. Interventions also can be strategies, activities, policies, or services. There is no single “right” type of intervention. The important thing is whether it matches the needs of the school, as identified by climate data collection; the school’s readiness to implement it; and how it is implemented (i.e., this is not an “activity” but a process of changing how things get done). Community partners that work directly with students and families should be involved in the selection and implementation of school climate interventions, particularly if their agencies can offer specific activities. All community partners can provide feedback about what is working or not working based on their interactions with students and families.

What Are the Key Things to Do?

- Participate on the school climate team that is identifying and selecting interventions.*
- Clearly outline what services you can offer, what capacity your organization currently has, and what you would expect in terms of funding to be able to implement the services.*
- Share a list of services and supports your organization provides and how they align with school climate improvement interventions. Talk with the school about concrete activities and supports you can provide as part of the school climate initiative.*
- Consider how to better coordinate and not duplicate effort with other organizations.*

What Does This Look Like When You Do the Work Well?

- Getting involved with the team that selects improvement strategies.
- Identifying where your services align with the school’s goals and selected strategies.
- Identifying concrete tasks your organization can take on.
- Being clear about the resources (financial, staff, systems) you will need and can contribute to implement services.
- Sharing information about the interventions with your constituents, including families of students, in partnership with the school climate team. It is important to consistently communicate what the interventions will involve.

What Do You Want to Avoid? What Are Potential Pitfalls?

- Skipping the selection process and then saying you do not like or support the intervention that was chosen.
- Offering to help without identifying specifically how your services align with the selected improvement strategies.
- Being vague or overstating your organization’s capacity.
- Waiting to talk about finances and who is funding which services—this can lead to confusion and frustration.
- Sharing information about chosen interventions without touching base with the school climate team.
Questions You Can Ask School Leadership and School Climate Team Members About Choosing and Implementing School Climate Interventions

- What are the school’s primary goals with the climate initiative?
- What services is the school seeking to fill with a community partner?
- How can my organization support those goals or provide those services?
- How can I communicate about the interventions to constituents—what they are, where they will take place, for whom they are intended, and how they will be implemented and impact students and school climate?