



STEP

2



STEP 2

Identify the Policy Players

After you have picked your problem and solution, you want as many players as possible on your team. Tell others what you're doing and how they can help. The more support you get, the stronger your team will be.

Who Can Help You?

Teachers, coaches, and parents can be great team mates. They have a big interest in making the school a healthier place so students can learn better. Try adding one of these groups to your team:

- The American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society
- City Parks and Recreation Department
- a local hospital
- a community center
- a school health center

Who Is On the Other Team?

Of course it is important to build up your team, but you also need to know the players on the other team. In order to win the policy game, you need to know who might not agree with your solution. For example, the school might have safety concerns about opening the gym on weekends. Students at Hoover High School in San Diego, California, solved this problem by involving the local police department in their project to keep the gym open. You will need to work hard to solve issues like this so **EVERYBODY WINS**. Your job is not to make enemies but to convince people that your solution works for everyone. It is important to respect the opinions of other people.

Who Are the Decision Makers?

Decision makers are the people who have the power to change things. When you are talking about schools, the decision makers will most likely include:

- School principal
- Teachers and parents
- School district superintendent
- School board members
- Food service director (for policies that deal with eating and food)
- Director of the Physical Education department (for policies dealing with physical activity).

You will have to decide which of the decision-makers can help you the most. Some policies can be made by the school principal or food service director. Others can be made by the school district or board of education. Finally, others can be made by the state or national government.

Make a list of all the groups or people that you should talk to about your problem and solution. Include supporters, decision makers, and people on the other team. List them on the Policy Player Worksheet.



Who Are The Policy Players?

Use this worksheet to list the policy players. These are the people you will need to communicate with through letter writing, phone calls, and presentations.

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	NOTES