

Next Steps

Please complete the following Next Steps, to integrate your experiences within your own schools and communities with the information presented in this chapter.

1. On page 80, figure 4.2 lists several key environmental protective factors of resilience. As you read this list, consider the following questions.
 - a. Which of these protective factors are you currently implementing in your classroom, school, or district? How have you seen these efforts impact your students?
 - b. Choose one of the factors you are not currently implementing in your classroom, school, or district. In what ways can you change your practice to strengthen your students' resilience?
2. Are there any schools in your district or nearby in your state that have implemented a community outreach approach? You and some of your colleagues might consider a visit to see one of these schools in operation. The Vancouver Public Schools in Washington regularly host seminars and visits to their family-community resource centers.
3. What do you think are the essential elements of an effective school? A schoolwide discussion regarding the essential elements of an effective school might help to identify agreements and disagreements in the school staff's vision of your school purpose and goals.
4. Looking ahead, which of the four cornerstones are you most interested in learning more about, and why?
5. Why did you become an educator? Knowing what you now know about internal and environmental protective factors, which factors played a role in your life and your decision to become an educator?