EDUCATE

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education, sports and youth leadership to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect and human dignity.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools has involved 47 U.S. Special Olympics Programs and has engaged approximately 225,000 young people in over 150 schools statewide.

Bocce
Volleyball
Golf
Basketball
Soccer
Tennis
Flag Football

Unified Sports Offered in Illinois

For more information, contact Jen at 630-200-7693 or jmarcello@soill.org.

74% of participating students said Unified Champion Schools was a positive turning point in their lives, that they became more patient, and that they learned to compromise. Two thirds of the students said they learned they have things in common with their peers with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Unified
Champion Schools
Building Schools & Communities of Inclusion
Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is...

...a youth-centered, school-focused initiative that uses Special Olympics’ sports and education programs to:

- activate youth
- engage educators
- promote school communities of acceptance and inclusion where all young people are agents of change

As a Special Olympics initiative, Unified Champion Schools incorporates many sports-related activities. But it is far more than a vehicle for sports events. It is the umbrella for a host of activities - national as well as grassroots - that benefit all students of all abilities, their schools and their communities.

Unified Champion Schools is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

Nearby all teacher liaisons and students who participated in Unified Champion Schools said that it was successful at their school and that they’d like to do it again.

Inclusive Sports

This means two things in Unified Champion Schools. One, students with intellectual disabilities (ID) are given the opportunity to participate in sports. Two, students with and without ID participate in sports alongside each other - inclusively.

Youth Leadership & Advocacy

Unified Champion Schools does not merely allow young people to take leadership roles in promoting Project UNIFY in their school and communities... it insists that they do so. For youth both with and without ID, those are leadership lessons that last a lifetime and youth are the pioneers of an inclusive movement.

Whole School Engagement

When an entire school accepts and includes students and others with ID, it is a powerful community of change. By giving all students (faculty and staff, too) opportunities to participate, Unified Champion Schools helps achieve that goal.

Nearly all teacher liaisons and students who participated in Unified Champion Schools said that it was successful at their school and that they’d like to do it again.

66% of teacher liaisons observed that Unified Champion Schools helps raise awareness and increases opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to work together.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools combines...

...three main components:

Inclusive Sports

Youth Leadership & Advocacy

Whole School Engagement

Get Into It Lessons & Resources

Spread the Word Campaign

Social networking

Fans in the Stands

Youth Rallies

Partner Clubs

Youth Activation Committees

Youth Summits & Forums

Inclusive Leadership Programs

Youth Activation Committees

Youth Summits & Forums

Inclusive Leadership Programs

More than half of teacher liaisons observed that Unified Champion Schools increases opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to get involved in school activities.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools...

...by giving students with and without intellectual disabilities many ways to become involved:

Inclusive Sports

- Unified Sports®
- Unified Sports Recreation
- Young Athletes® (Early childhood motor development)
- Camp Shriver
- Games/tournaments
- Coaching & volunteering

Whole School Engagement

- Get Into It Lessons & Resources
- Spread the Word Campaign
- Social networking
- Fans in the Stands
- Youth Rallies

Youth Leadership & Advocacy

- Partner Clubs
- Youth Activation Committees
- Youth Summits & Forums
- Inclusive Leadership Programs

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools...

- Nearly all teacher liaisons and students who participated in Unified Champion Schools said that it was successful at their school and that they’d like to do it again.

- 66% of teacher liaisons observed that Unified Champion Schools helps raise awareness and increases opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to work together.

- More than half of teacher liaisons observed that Unified Champion Schools increases opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to get involved in school activities.