



## Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools

(formerly known as **Project UNIFY** Schools) bring youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through

education and sports to create school communities of acceptance and respect. Unified Champion Schools are seen through every level of education (Pre-K/Head Start through college) and are driven by youth and staff leaders.



### Benefits of becoming a Special Olympics Unified Champion School:

- ✓ **Reduced bullying** and exclusion.
- ✓ **Increased healthy activity and interactions** between students with and without intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ **Elimination of hurtful language** in schools.
- ✓ **Engagement of students in service learning activities** that lead to personal growth.
- ✓ **Funding to support your program** that can be used towards: sports equipment, uniforms, transportation, or supplies for inclusive activities.





## 2016-2017 Unified Champion School Requirements:

Incorporate at least 1 activity to fit the following components during the 2016-2017 school year:

● **Special Olympics Unified Sports®**

Examples: Interscholastic Unified Sports, Unified PE or Unified Recreation

● **Inclusive Youth Leadership**

Examples: Unified Clubs, inclusive student councils or similar types of inclusive student group

● **Whole-School Engagement**

Examples: Spread the Word to End the Word (R-Word) Campaigns, Pep Rallies or “Fans in the Stands”



## Want your school to join the **Unified** movement? Here are the steps to get started:

- ✓ **Identify who is going to lead the effort** within the school (both staff and student leaders).
- ✓ **Develop a plan** for how you will incorporate the 3 components: Unified Sports, Youth Leadership and Whole-School Engagement (plan can be adjusted during school-year as needed).
- ✓ **Obtain administrator approval** from your school principal.
- ✓ **Complete the online Unified Champion Schools Participation Form** (found at <http://sonc.net/unified-champion-schools/ucs-overview/>).
- ✓ Begin implementing your plan.

**Need help getting started or have questions?** Contact [UnifiedSchools@sonc.net](mailto:UnifiedSchools@sonc.net)