



Unified Champion Schools® Agreement

Special Olympics West Virginia (SOWV) is excited that your school has taken the steps to begin to, or continue to, offer quality social inclusion through the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools aims to promote social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting school-wide change. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model (Unified Sports/Activities, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement) offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip youth with tools and training to create climates of acceptance, where students with and without intellectual disabilities feel welcome, are included in, and feel a part of all activities, functions and opportunities.

This form registers your school with Special Olympics WV for the 2021-2022 school year. By completing the below, it is your school's commitment to inclusion, acceptance and respect of all students through the implementation of Unified Champions Schools (UCS). Your students and teachers will make efforts to continually improve as an inclusive community for everyone, especially students with intellectual disabilities (ID). Students with and without ID will be encouraged and empowered to lead the efforts to improve the climate at our school, with teachers and administrative support.

Unified Champion Schools®

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® is a 3-component model that combines Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement to create school and community climates of acceptance and inclusion.

The three components of Unified Champions School are:

1. **Inclusive/Unified Sports/PE or Activities:** Sports and/or PE, or other Unified Activities participation involving people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.
2. **Youth Leadership:** Newly formed clubs or existing school clubs which plan and implement inclusive activities.
3. **Whole School Engagement:** Campaigns, events or activities to encourage acceptance, respect and inclusion for all students. Example: Anti Bullying Campaign, Spread the Word Campaign, Special Olympics pep rally

As a school, we understand that to receive financial support from Special Olympics West Virginia, we commit to participate in an activity in each of the three (3) components.

Please select the activities in which your school will participate:

Unified Sports/PE – (includes participation in local, regional or state Special Olympics competition events)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling (fall/spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce (spring) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball (winter/spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Baggo/Cornhole (spring) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Track and Field: Athletics (spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Unified PE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unified Fine Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Athletes (Preschool/Elementary Only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |



Youth Leadership

- Attend a Unified Champion Schools Summit**
- Student led events** – Students with and without intellectual disabilities plan, organize and implement a Special Olympic event or activity within the school or community (with the local county program).
- Partner Clubs – Unified Champion Schools:** Students with and without intellectual disabilities participate together in recreational activities, fitness programs, school events, etc.

Whole School Engagement

- Be Kind/Anti-Bullying Campaign:** Student/Youth leadership in schools to promote respect and inclusion, peer to peer communication about bullying prevention, and leading by example.
- Cool School Polar Plunge:** Schools have the opportunity to participate as a school by raising money and awareness to support Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners. Schools across the state, have the opportunity to battle for bragging rights and to compete to see which school can form the largest team, raise the most money, and come up with the best costume. School awards and prizes are provided to the top teams, individual fundraisers, and best costumes at a SOWV Polar Plunge.
- Disability Awareness Activity**
- Fans in the Stands**
- Get Into It Lessons (School-wide)**
- Spread the Word Campaign** – R-Word or Inclusion Campaign which would include total involvement/participation at your school. Example: school assemblies/rallies, virtual campaigns.
- Youth Activation Committee:** A Youth Activation Committee (YAC) is a group of youth comprised of members with and without intellectual disabilities within a school. This group works together throughout the year to educate, motivate, and activate youth to become agents of change in their communities and advocate for the respect, inclusion, and acceptance of all people, regardless of abilities and backgrounds.
- Other:** _____

Special Olympics West Virginia will provide:

- A staff liaison to help with the implementation of the Unified Champion School program with on-site training, on-line resources, etc. and regular contact to provide support and assistance.
- Funding to support school initiatives.

Unified Champion School will:

- Have all Unified coaches (youth and adult) complete the free online National Federation of High School (NFHS) Unified Sports Coaches training.
- 1-2 staff liaisons to help with the implementation of the Unified Champion School program.
- Use the Special Olympics Unified Champion School logo on all printed materials including sport uniforms.
- Support student leadership roles to meet the criteria to be a Unified Champion School.
- Complete a mid-year and year-end online survey from UMass.



Unified Champion Schools® Agreement

By signing, we agree on to meet the requirements stated in this agreement to become a Special Olympics West Virginia Unified Champion School and promote inclusion, acceptance and respect for all people.

Date: _____

School District: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

Administrator/Principal Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

School Liaison (AD, teacher, coach) Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

School Liaison (AD, teacher, coach, youth) Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Position: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Special Olympics West Virginia Contact:

Wendy Miller

Wendy@sowv.org

304.345.9310