

How to become a Unified Champion School

Special Olympics
Northern California



SCHOOLS
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM

Unified Champion Schools

A Unified Champion School promotes inclusion and acceptance by participating in three components of Unified Champion Schools; Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement.



What is Unified Sports?

- **Unified Sports** joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In a virtual environment, a unified partner can be anyone from your siblings to your parent or guardian.

Unified Athlete

Student receiving Special Education services participating in Special Olympics event with their general education peers.

Unified Partner

Student in General Education participating in Special Olympics event with their peers receiving Special Education services.

What is Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement?

- **Inclusive Youth Leadership** is when young people with and without disabilities are given opportunities to be leaders in their schools and communities.
- **Whole School Engagement** is a youth-centered, school-focused initiative that activates all students to promote a campus culture of acceptance and social inclusion.

Activities of a Unified Champion School

Unified Sports

- Bring a Unified Team to a competition
- Practice sports with general education peers
- Offer Inclusive P.E.
- Host a Young Athlete day

Inclusive Youth Leadership

- Inclusive buddy club
- Student Council involvement
- Student volunteering
- School Youth Activation Committee

Whole School Engagement

- Fans in the Stands
- Unified Sports rally
- RESPECT Campaign
- Ability Awareness Day
- Youth Summit

After participating in at least one activity from each category, you will earn Unified Champion School status!

