



Overview

How does the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools strategy work?

The Unified Champion Schools strategy is designed to be woven into the fabric of the school, enhancing current efforts and providing rich opportunities that lead to the creation of a socially inclusive school that supports and engages all learners. What a Unified Champion School looks like can vary greatly from school to school (or team to team), based on the needs, goals, schedules and other factors unique to each school level, but the basic building blocks remain the same.

The Components of Unified Champion Schools are:

Whole School Engagement:

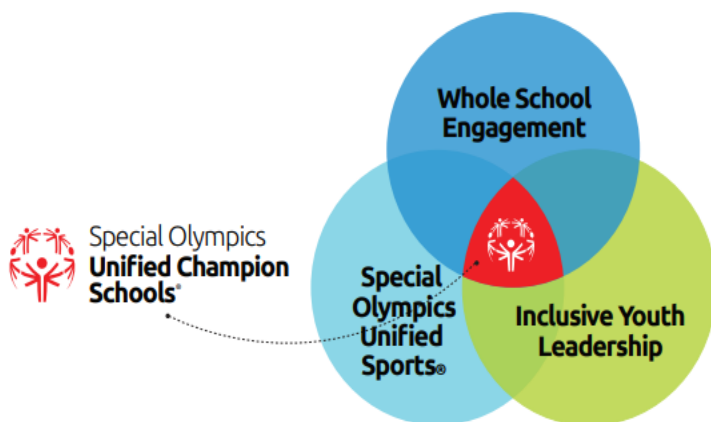
Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach most of the school population.

Inclusive Youth Leadership:

Students with and without intellectual disabilities working together to lead and plan advocacy, awareness and inclusive activities throughout the school year.

Special Olympics Unified Sports®:

A fully inclusive sports or fitness program that combines an approximately equal number of students with and without intellectual disabilities.



A Unified Champion School implements **three specific components, all of which are best integrated with the others in a cohesive effort to increase social inclusion throughout the school.** Just as an integrated curriculum in schools has long been recognized as a foundation for effective learning, research on Unified Champion Schools has identified that schools in which all three components are interconnected and implemented are those that become socially inclusive to a higher degree.