



Overview

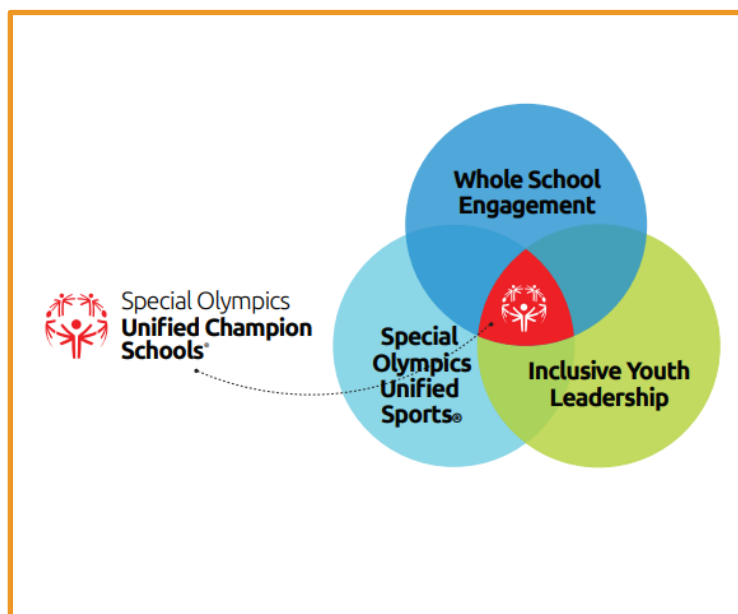


How does the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools strategy work in Elementary Schools?

Unified Champion Schools promote social inclusion by bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities through sports and other activities. Students who “Play Unified” become better at helping others, standing up for each other, and sharing responsibility.

Unified Champion Schools are based on the premise that lasting change must start with youth. In elementary schools, adults foster youth leadership by facilitating age-appropriate leadership roles and providing learning experiences that explore what it means to be a leader. Students might be mentors for younger student athletes, set up sports skill stations, and discuss books that promote leadership qualities, for example. These experiences lay a strong foundation for middle and high school years when students take more initiative in planning and implementing Unified opportunities. Ultimately, students become advocates for communities that promote respect and dignity for everyone.

The Components of Unified Champion Schools are:



Special Olympics Unified Sports®:

provide opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to participate in a variety of fitness and sports activities alongside one another.

Inclusive Youth Leadership:

encourages students with and without intellectual disabilities to take on leading roles as they work with adults in the school to create a socially inclusive environment through sports and other activities.

Whole School Engagement:

opportunities are awareness and education activities that promote respect and social inclusion and reach the majority of students and school staff members.

Key Characteristics of Unified Champion Schools

- Unifying programming
- Positive school climates
- Sports as a catalyst for social inclusion
- Development of students' leadership skills



Unified Champion Schools Outcomes

- Reduce bullying and exclusion
- Promote inclusive friendships
- Overturn negative attitudes
- Decrease hurtful language in schools & community
- Develop students' leadership skills
- Create communities of caring and respect

Programs and Activities for Elementary Schools

Unified Sports	Inclusive Youth Leadership	Whole School Engagement	Curriculum Content
Young Athletes	Inclusive Service Clubs	Looking for Leaders Play	Unified Classroom
Developmental Sports	Buddy Program	Spread the Word: Inclusion Campaign	Lessons in Social Inclusion: Mini Lessons
Inclusive Skillerees	Students on Leadership Teams	Young Readers Club	
Unified Physical Education	Inclusive Green Teams	SEL Lessons (Page 105 in Elementary Playbook)	
Unified Sport Field Days	Inclusive Classroom Reps	Morning Announcements (Page 67 in Elementary Playbook)	
		Inclusive Spirit Weeks	

Contact:

Morgan Larche

Director,

Unified Schools

mlarche@sowa.org

206-693-2616