

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® and Social Emotional Learning

The **five social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies** identified by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) are¹:

Self-awareness

the ability to recognize one's emotions and thoughts and their influence on behavior

Self-management

the ability to regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively

Social awareness

the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others from different backgrounds

Relationship skills

the ability to establish and maintain healthy relationships with diverse individuals

Responsible decision-making

the ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions

Ten years of evidence and evaluations² show that the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® program promotes SEL outcomes through inclusive activities and interactions that offer opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) to work together in collaborative, goal-oriented environments.



Students who participate in the UCS program feel more supported by their teachers and peers, have higher levels of grit, receive better grades, and are more empathetic and compassionate

Special Olympics Unified Sports® coaches report that students similarly practiced



relationship skills



social awareness



responsible decision-making

in Special Olympics Unified Sports® activities

Participants in the UCS program report that they learned:

about working with others	64%
about helping others	68%
becoming more patient	64%
standing up for something	66%
that they have things in common with students of different abilities	59%



Unified Club advisors report that students in the club have the chance to practice relationship skills (89%) and social awareness (86%)

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is generously supported by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education.



¹ www.casel.org

² Center for Social Development and Education, Year 10 Evaluation Report 2017-2018