

INTENT:

To support new and returning registered Special Olympics Washington Unified Champion Schools with financial needs in their efforts to establish or expand Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement activities that benefit the whole school.

Unified Schools funding supports projects and activities that create **repeated, meaningful, and sustainable inclusive sports, fitness, social and education opportunities**. All activities must aim to engage students with and without intellectual and development disabilities of similar ages and numbers as equal teammates, classmates, and peers. Unified Champion Schools is made possible by a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

BUDGET & FUNDING REQUEST:

A [Commitment to Inclusion Form](#) must be submitted for the 2024-2025 school year prior to receiving funds. The Budget & Funding Request should be sent to UnifiedSchools@sowa.org for review and approval by Special Olympics Washington Unified Champion Schools staff.

FUNDING LEVELS

- **New** – A school that is new to the unified movement and did not participate during the previous school year.
- **Returning** – A school that participated in any Unified Champion Schools component during the previous school year. The school is looking to expand its current offerings.

Funding Amount	New School (2024-2025 SY)	Returning School
\$2,000	Must offer 3 Components : Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, <u>AND</u> Whole School Engagement	X
\$1,500	Must offer 2 Components : Unified Sports + Inclusive Youth Leadership <u>OR</u> Whole School Engagement	X
\$1,000	1 Component : Unified Sports Only	Must offer 3 Components : Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, <u>AND</u> Whole School Engagement
\$750	X	Must offer 2 Components : Unified Sports + Inclusive Youth Leadership <u>OR</u> Whole School Engagement
\$500	Unified Club and/or Whole School Engagement	1 Component : Unified Sports Only
\$250	X	Unified Club and/or Whole School Engagement



Budget and Funding Request: 2024-2025

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES:

- **Supplies**- Paper, markers, stickers, posters, etc.
- **Equipment**- Uniforms (not including shoes), sports equipment, banners (that are reusable), etc. These items are sustainable and will benefit your program for years to come.
- **Transportation**- Van/rental/bus expenses to Unified Sports related event/competition, including league play and district tournaments – most cost-efficient mode should be utilized, including carpools (*do not include state competitions*)
- **Facility**- Expenses for rental of a facility space or custodians for school-based Unified Sports or Unified Club meetings.
- **Stipends**- For coaches and/or club advisors **outside of instructional time** (lunch and advisory are considered outside of instructional time). There is an expectation that coaches receiving stipends are participating in a full season and includes both practices and competitions.

NON- ALLOWABLE EXPENSES:

Unified Schools funds are made possible primarily from funds from the United States Department of Education and therefore are subject to spending guidelines. When preparing funding requests, keep in mind that funds **cannot** be used for:

- Activities where the ratio of students with/without disabilities is greater than 25%
- Parties and one-time celebrations (including ice cream or pizza parties for entire school)
- Field trips and other out of school activities that include students not directly participating in Unified Club and Unified Sports activities.
- Staff payments or staff incentives for activities that take place during instructional time
- Arts and crafts activities or classroom equipment that are not directly related to inclusive club or sports initiatives
- Electronic Devices (i.e. tablets, laptops, computers, cameras, camcorders)
- Fundraising supplies
- Apparel, including shoes

REVIEW PROCESS:

Funding Request will be evaluated on effective and efficient use of funds, needs, reach, and depth. Focus should be placed on activities that bring students together regularly in nearly equal ratios, or as close as possible, so they can form relationships and meaningful interactions.

Please ask for what you need to implement your Unified Sports, Unified Club, and School-wide activities successfully, while **also showing your school match (what your school plans to provide financially or in-kind)**.

***NOTE*:** As your school increases your level of involvement as a Unified Champion School in the upcoming years, our hope is that your Unified Schools program will be sustained primarily through the school and/or club fundraisers, with decreased funding support from Special Olympics Washington as your school becomes more sustainable. SOWA will work with each school on an individual basis and provide support as necessary. Need ideas and/or sustainability planning support? Connect with one of the Unified Schools teams members by email UnifiedSchools@sowa.org.

UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

Funding/Budget Request 2024-2025

School Name: _____

Requesting Funds as a: ☐ New School ☐ Returning School

	Funding Requests		School Match
Budget Line Item	Amount & Items Requested	Justification on Need- Be Specific	Match/In-Kind Amount
Supplies			
Equipment			
Transportation			
Facility			
Stipends			
	TOTAL REQUESTED FROM SOWA		TOTAL SCHOOL MATCH
Total			
OVERALL BUDGET REQUEST TOTAL (SOWA Request + School Match)			

Please email this form to UnifiedSchools@sowa.org
For an example of a properly completed request, please see next page.