

Unified Champion Schools 101

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS) are aimed at promoting social inclusion through planned activities affecting the school community. With sports as the foundation, the UCS consists of three components: Whole School Engagement, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Unified Sports. These offer a unique combination that equip young people with tools and training to create sports and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included and valued in all activities, opportunities and functions.

 Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools



Unified Champion Schools promote a school climate that:

- Is free from bullying and exclusion
- Combats stereotypes and negative attitudes
- Eliminates hurtful language
- Promotes healthy activity and interactions
- Welcomes and values the engagement of all students



Within Unified Champion Schools:

- Students with and without intellectual disabilities have opportunities for physical activity and friendships across the school setting – in hallways and lunchrooms, in classrooms and gymnasiums, and on and off athletic fields.
- Students with and without intellectual disabilities are provided opportunities to interact with their peers and to personally learn and grow.

At its core, Unified Champion Schools are not just about including students with disabilities, but unifying all students; moving from adult-led programming to student-led mobilization and action; and transitioning from sports as recreation to sports as a catalyst for social inclusion and change.

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania

