



Special Olympics Pennsylvania Philadelphia Unified Champion Schools Director

Department: Programming - Philadelphia

Relationships: The Philadelphia Unified Champion Schools (UCS) Director reports to the Director of the Philadelphia program; supervises the Philadelphia UCS Manager; works with UCS team to oversee implementation of UCS strategy within Philadelphia; collaborates with school district leadership

The Philadelphia UCS Director will be a valued leader within the SOPA Philadelphia program team and will collaborate with colleagues, including the Director of the Philadelphia program, to support organizational success within the city of Philadelphia.

Location: Primary work location will be SOPA-Philadelphia office with regular travel and work across Philadelphia schools and administrative offices

Position Summary

The Philadelphia Unified Champion Schools (UCS) Director oversees the development, operational success and strategic growth of the Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) UCS positive school climate program which activates youth, engages educators and promotes school communities of acceptance and inclusion for people with and without intellectual disabilities in Philadelphia. The Director will lead initiatives that seek to drive expansion of the UCS program in Philadelphia by creating a continuum of connection to UCS programming throughout the K-12 educational experience for ALL students, ultimately establishing the UCS program within all School District of Philadelphia schools with Special Education (ID/DD/Autism) and general education student populations. In this newly established role, the UCS Director will ensure overall UCS program quality control and evaluation, lead SOPA Philadelphia UCS staff and manage key relationships with priority on SOPA's collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia.

Key Responsibilities

This position will assume the following responsibilities to support the overall Programming Department's goals and objectives specifically in the area of school-based Unified Champion Schools initiatives in Philadelphia:

- Establish, develop and strengthen priority partnerships with the School District of Philadelphia; provide ongoing leadership and management of partnership agreements including SOPA's Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Philadelphia and agreements with individual partner schools
- Collaborate with stakeholders on strategies for success within SOPA's Cities of Inclusion and the Special Olympics North America Unified Champion City Schools (UCCS) initiatives in Philadelphia; primarily work with multiple School District of Philadelphia departments including, but not limited to, the Health and Physical Education Department within the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, the Office of Specialized Services and the Division of Athletics on the development of an inclusive school-day program (i.e. Unified Physical Education)
- Oversee the growth and expansion of community partnerships that support UCS programming, family and community engagement, and student transitions, such as partnerships with early childhood education providers, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, and health organizations
- Lead and supervise the Philadelphia UCS Manager to ensure the successful planning and implementation of school-level programming, including UCS program components at all partner schools, signature UCS events in Philadelphia, and reporting requirements in accordance with UCS initiatives and grant funding
- Develop annual budget for Philadelphia UCS program; assist with grant management to support the budget
- Other duties as assigned



Qualifications:

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual with team and program management experience to grow and further develop a proven program. Specific requirements include:

- Five to seven years of experience required with three of those in a team management and/or supervisory role; successful experience motivating, leading, and engaging staff, teachers and students
- Demonstrated results in managing through complex systems and achieving goals through collaboration with strategic partners; experience working in or with a comprehensive school system; the ideal candidate has at least five years of experience working with the School District of Philadelphia
- Experience with strategic plan development and demonstrated success developing and evaluating program models; experience with curriculum development in inclusive health and physical education programming preferred
- Minimum of a BA with professional background in education and/or school and community programming
- Personal qualities of integrity, inclusivity and a commitment to and passion for the mission of Special Olympics PA
- Excellent presentation and communication skills, both verbal and written
- Strong computer skills, proficient in use of Microsoft Office software
- Must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (i.e., at least 2 weeks after last dose) and, if hired, present proof of vaccination by start date.

Application Instructions: Serious applicants should provide a cover letter, resume, and salary requirement.

Deadline: Applications received by **March 1, 2022** will receive priority. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

No phone calls will be accepted. Resumes sent for positions other than this posting will not receive a response. Communications from recruiters will not be acknowledged.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, neurodiversity, age, parental status, socio-economic background, military service, or any other characteristic or status protected by applicable law.

We strive to create a workplace that reflects the communities we serve and where everyone feels empowered to bring their full, authentic selves and can do their best work.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to 16,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For 50 years, SOPA and its 54 local programs have used the power of sports to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable and civil society. SOPA is much more than a sports organization. Through its Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement and take on roles as Global Messengers (trained as public speakers for Special Olympics), athlete representatives, coaches, board members and more. SOPA also addresses major challenges facing its athletes including healthcare. The Healthy Athletes program offers athletes free health screenings in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry assessments. Athletes are also taught how to live active lifestyles, eat healthy and more. Additionally, SOPA strives to create a unified world by promoting inclusion, uniting communities, and changing attitudes. Through Unified Sports, SOPA brings together individuals with and without



intellectual disabilities as equal teammates in training and competition, which promotes respect and acceptance, and facilitates meaningful relationships between people of all abilities. For more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit www.specialolympicspa.org.