

Unified Champion Schools

Partnership for Inclusion - 2019-2020



Welcome to new and returning schools!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year! Special Olympics Texas is excited that your school has taken the steps to begin to or continue to offer quality Social Inclusion through Unified Champion Schools Programming. We're so glad that your campus recognizes the positive impact of UCS initiatives on our school community, empowering our educators and our youth to create a school climate of social inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all students.

As you might know, the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting school-wide change. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model (Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement) offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions.

Special Olympics Texas will be providing training opportunities for youth, coaches, and school staff through topic specific webinars, workshops, and Unified Youth Summits. Schools will receive consistent communication from Special Olympics Texas staff via our Unified Champion Schools news letters that will be sent out monthly, providing news, updates, and highlighting specific schools across the state who are achieving Recognized Unified Champion School status by excelling in all of our 3 components.

Schools will have an opportunity to apply to be a Recognized Unified Champion School and/or as a National Banner Unified Champion School, which is a school that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence. Schools who achieve this standard will be recognized with a National Banner to be displayed on their school campus and their name across the nation! Please reach out to akeller@sotx.org to receive the 10 standards.

The below form registers your school with Special Olympics Texas for the 2019-2020 school year. Please communicate with your administrators, coaches, student leaders, clubs, etc. on what sports/activities your school plans to offer throughout the year before completing this form. Please review the below form thoroughly before signing, as your school will be expected to achieve what they had committed to offer throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing how your school takes the Unified Champion Schools movement to the next level!

Alice Keller, M.Ed.
Senior Director of Inclusive Education

Tammy Hortenstine
Senior Director of Unified Programs

SCHOOL ADVISOR INFORMATION

School Name:		School District:		New School? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Grade Level(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Middle <input type="checkbox"/> High <i>(Please complete a different form for each school in the district)</i>				Total School Enrollment:	
School Mailing Address:					
City:		Zip code:		County:	
School Phone:		School Fax:			
Main School Advisor Name:		Advisor Job Title:		New Liaison for '19 - '20? Y <input type="checkbox"/> or N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Advisor Email:		Advisor Cell:			



Please select ALL options within each component that your school anticipates completing this year as your school's strategy for inclusion.

COMPONENT 1: UNIFIED SPORTS®

- **Young Athletes™** inclusive sports and play program for grades PK - 2nd to build social, cognitive, and physical skills)
- **Unified Sports®Recreation (R)**(promote social inclusion and increase sport skills and knowledge in a non-competitive inclusive sports setting)
- **Unified Sports® Player Development (PD)** (teammates of higher ability serving as mentors to assist players of lower ability)
- **Unified Sports® Competitive (C)** teammates of similar ability and age who train and compete together. Teams compete against others with higher level sport skills. Competitive Unified Sports is training and competition based.)

<u>Fall</u>			<u>Winter</u>			<u>Spring</u>		
R	PD	C	R	PD	C	R	PD	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Pre-School and Elementary Schools ONLY:

- Young Athletes™
- Unified Sports Field Days
- Other: _____

COMPONENT 2: INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP (IYL)

Inclusive Youth Leadership provides students with and without intellectual disabilities opportunities to take on leadership roles to promote Unified Champion School activities in the school and in the community

Each school should aim to offer at least 1 of the below IYL options throughout the school year

- Unified Club
- Youth Young Athletes™ (YA)
- Attend a Unified Youth Summit
- Organize a Unified Youth Summit
- Unified Pair on Student Council
- Unified Champion Youth Leader Participation
- Fundraiser: _____
- Other: _____

COMPONENT 3: WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Whole School Activities provides opportunities for all students in the school to participate in Unified Champion Schools through sustained school-wide activities.

Each school should aim to offer at least 1 Whole School Activity per semester

- Spread the Word to End the Word™ campaign
- Respect campaign/assembly/rally
- Disability Awareness activity
- Fans in the Stands
- School-wide Unified Sports Day
- Unified Sports Pep Rally (i.e. send off athletes to competition)
- Get Into It - lessons
- Movies that Move - video discussions
- Perfect Game - book
- It's Our School Too - skit
- Cool Schools Polar Plunge team
- Fundraiser: _____
- Other: _____



TRAINING, COMMUNICATION, EVALUATION, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- Complete the free online NFHS Unified Sports® Coaches Training (As an advisor or coach)
- Participate in mid-term and final reporting online survey as outlined by Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) and Special Olympics International (SOI) Liaison Survey
- Provide SOTX staff with highlights, updates, pictures and videos for mid-term (January) and final (June) reports
- Attend SOTX Unified Champion Schools Welcome Webinar or view recording

COMMITMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Special Olympics unified approach has been an effective strategy in creating a school climate of inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all students, with and without intellectual disabilities.

Certification:

By signing this form, the school administrator and liaison certify that:

- o The information provided is accurate to the best of my ability;
- o The school will comply with all Special Olympics Texas policies and procedures, volunteer, athlete and Unified Sports Partner paperwork, General Rules;
- o The school will provide Special Olympics Texas with requested data throughout the year;
- o The school will commit to doing their best in building a school community of inclusion.
- o The school will be financially self-sustaining by year 3 (all returning schools began cycle at year 1 in 2018-2019)

In turn it is understood that Special Olympics Texas will:

- o Provide consultation, education, support and technical assistance for all sports programs and activities that promote inclusion, acceptance, respect and dignity for all students;
- o Provide a comprehensive training program by Special Olympics Texas;
- o Provide Special Olympics Texas policies and procedures, training manuals, schedules, athlete and Unified Sports Partner paperwork, General Rules etc.;
- o Provide resources to support school based unified activities (as agreed);
- o Provide Special Olympics Texas logo and communications resources such as press releases, media contacts etc. used to introduce and promote programs.
- o Provide financial support as outlined in the funding request application to support the schools "Commitment to Inclusion" as stated in document.

Administrator's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____ **Title:** _____

School Advisor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____ **Title:** _____

If known, please provide your Unified Sports coaches contact information if it is different than the school advisor:

Coach Name: _____ **Sport:** _____ **New?** Y or N

Coach Email: _____ **Coach Phone number:** _____

Coach Name: _____ **Sport:** _____ **New?** Y or N

Coach Email: _____ **Coach Phone number:** _____

Please email this form to: UCSinfo@sotx.org or fax to 512.835.6328