

UNIFIED SCHOOLS

Guide

2018-2019



**Special
Olympics**
Minnesota



Special Olympics
Unified Schools

UNIFIED SCHOOLS GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS.....	4
WHAT IS UNIFIED SCHOOLS?.....	5
INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP.....	6
UNIFIED SPORTS.....	9
WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT.....	17
SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDRAISING....	23
SCHOOL LIAISONS.....	24
SOLUTIONS TO ROADBLOCKS.....	25
WHAT'S AFTER GRADUATION?.....	26
INDEX & RESOURCES.....	27

#LIVEUNIFIED



UNIFIED SCHOOLS STAFF CONTACT

Nick Cedergren

West Metro & Northern Minnesota Schools

nick.cedergren@somn.org

763.270.7177

Laura Brunner

East Metro & Southern Minnesota Schools

laura.brunner@somn.org

763.270.7174

CONNECT WITH UNIFIED SCHOOLS

Join in the Unified conversation on social media and hear tips, best practices and inspiring stories from across Minnesota.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Through her efforts, Special Olympics has become a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, a world in which every single person is accepted and welcomed regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier and more joyful place — one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY THE NUMBERS



172 COUNTRIES



5 MILLION ATHLETES



1 MILLION
UNIFIED PARTNERS



**Special
Olympics**
Minnesota

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA

Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN) was founded in 1973 and hosts trainings and competitions year round. Currently Special Olympics Minnesota offers 17 Olympic-style sports.

Through SOMN's athletic, health, and leadership programs, people with intellectual disabilities transform themselves, their communities and the world. Special Olympics Minnesota serves more than 8,000 athletes, 2,000 Unified Partners and more than 8,000 coaches.

WHAT IS THE UNIFIED SCHOOLS MOVEMENT?

Special Olympics Unified Schools is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged student community that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities. It is a strategy to activate youth, engage educators, and promote school communities of acceptance and inclusion where all young people are agents of change.



The three components of Unified Schools are **Inclusive Youth Leadership**, **Unified Sports**, and **Whole School Engagement**. All three areas are crucial to shift the culture of a school towards inclusion and once the three components are active, a school is considered a Unified Champion School.



INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

An opportunity for youth voices to be heard through engaging together with meaningful relationships.



UNIFIED SPORTS

A combination of special education students and general education students that participate in inclusive sporting opportunities.



WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Inclusive initiatives that reach entire school populations through engaging, inspiring and optimistic events.

WHY BECOME A UNIFIED SCHOOL?

- Unified Schools aim to create authentic inclusion in schools that change how students interact with one another on a daily basis.
- Unified Schools aim to be an ally in targeting intolerance, hate speech and bullying.
- Data shows that those youth who were more involved in a Unified School held more positive attitudes toward their peers with intellectual disabilities.
- Unified Schools is the tipping point for school culture and climate as all young people collaborate with school and classroom leaders as architects of their community values and norms.

75% of students participating in the Unified Schools Program said it was a positive turning point in their lives.



“Including people is so powerful. When you make people feel wanted and included, it makes a world of difference.”

- Will, graduate of Orono High School, a Unified Champion School



INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Unified Schools Program does not merely allow young people to take leadership roles in promoting acceptance and inclusion in their schools and communities, it insists that they do so. For youth both with and without intellectual disabilities, these are leadership lessons that last a lifetime, and youth are recognized as the pioneers of an inclusive environment.

What is Inclusive Youth Leadership?

Inclusive youth leadership is when young people of all abilities are given opportunities to be leaders in their schools and communities. These leadership activities help students find their voices and teach them to become change agents in their communities by promoting equity and acceptance. Social inclusion is best fostered when activities within the classroom, school, and community are designed and implemented by a diverse group of students within a school.

There are many different ways to nurture youth leadership in the school setting. Ensuring that various leadership roles are inclusive to all students who have ranging skill-sets, abilities, and perspectives will greatly enhance efforts to create and sustain change within the school and the community.

There are three ways to bring Inclusive Youth Leadership to your school: **Unified Clubs, Youth Summits** and **the Student Board of Directors**.



UNIFIED CLUBS

A Unified Club combines students with and without intellectual disabilities to develop meaningful relationships, help spread acceptance and ensure everyone feels included and welcome in their school.

Who can Participate?

Any student who is interested in an inclusive school setting may participate. Teachers, school coaches, faculty, family members or individuals from the community can support the club as well.

What do Unified Clubs do?

Unified Clubs are unique school-based clubs designed around empowering youth with and without intellectual disabilities to promote social justice through a variety of athletic, social, and recreational projects and activities. Your club is encouraged to design your own projects involving Unified Sports, Spread the Word to End the Word activities, Be a Fan campaigns, Fans in the Stands, volunteering, Polar Plunge teams, Special Olympics sports events in schools, etc.

YOUTH SUMMITS



Youth Summits are planned by students for ALL students. Each Youth Summit is centered on the topics of inclusive student leadership and the Unified generation.

Potential topics for breakout sessions include, but are not limited to: Person First Language, bullying prevention, advocacy training, Spread the Word campaigns, Unified Clubs, Unified Sports, etc.

Food, snacks, drinks, t-shirts and more goodies are provided to youth that attend.

EXAMPLE OF YOUTH SUMMIT SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 a.m.** **Registration**
- 9:30 a.m.** **Welcome**
- 10:00 a.m.** **Inclusive Leadership 101**
- 11:30 a.m.** **Breakout Session 1**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m.** **Keynote Speaker**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Breakout Session 2**
- 1:30 p.m.** **Breakout Session 3**
- 2:00 p.m.** **Dismiss/Optional Unified Sports**



STUDENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special Olympics Minnesota staff members will work with this group of students focusing on innovative strategies for inclusive student programming. Youth with and without intellectual disabilities, together not only lead in the design and facilitation of the committee, but also are enabled to co-create solutions to the social justice and school climate challenges. Youth will gain leadership, organization, and networking skills, along with building confidence in themselves.

Who is on the committee?

The Student Board of Directors is composed of 20-35 Special Olympics Minnesota athletes and unified partners. Each member must be between ages fourteen and twenty-one upon the start of his or her first term. The goal is to have a 50/50 ratio of athletes and partners. Each individual school can have a maximum of four sitting members on the Board.

What is the time commitment?

The committee will meet once a month in a centralized location.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of this group is to educate, motivate, and activate students in Minnesota, with an emphasis on school communities, in an effort to develop a society where all people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for and with people with intellectual disabilities.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS?

Students with and without intellectual disabilities can serve on the board.

- 1.** Students must commit to participate in meetings once every month.
- 2.** Students must commit to being a leader for inclusion and acceptance in their school and community.
- 3.**

Where to apply?

To apply please visit: somn.org/unifiedboard

Online applications will become available in January for the upcoming school year and will be due April 1st



UNIFIED SPORTS

The foundation of Unified Sports is meaningful involvement. This is the most important concept of Unified Sports that the coach and all of the players must understand and implement. Fundamentally, the principle of meaningful involvement ensures that every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of his or her team through their unique skills and qualities. Unified Sports is a combination of special education students and general education students that participate in inclusive sporting opportunities.

YOUNG ATHLETES

UNIFIED JUNIORS

UNIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

UNIFIED WELLNESS



YOUNG ATHLETES

Young Athletes is an innovative sports play program that introduces children ages two to seven years old, with and without intellectual disabilities to the world of sports. The Young Athletes program is a place for children to have the chance to develop better social skills, to play with their peers and to boost their confidence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I Start This Program at My School?

Fit this program into school day activities or after-school programming by using our easy-to-follow, one hour, weekly curriculum provided by Special Olympics Minnesota.

What is the cost?

The program is completely free of charge. You simply need a place to run the program (gym, large classroom, outdoor field, etc.) and a staff member passionate about sports and inclusion to serve as a coach!

What supplies will we use?

Special Olympics Minnesota will provide a kit full of fun sports equipment and training materials.

Who can lead the class?

A group of students who want to spread the unified movement ages 15 and up. We recommend at least 2:1 ratio for athletes to volunteers.

What is the benefit to our school and students?

Building a school community of acceptance and welcoming of people of all abilities improves the life and experience of all students. This program helps unite students with and without intellectual disabilities as they find a common ground in the joy of sports and play.

What skills will my students develop?

Curriculum focuses include:

Foundational skills

Balance & jumping

Striking & kicking

Throwing

Trapping & catching

Advanced skills





UNIFIED SPORTS

UNIFIED JUNIORS

Unified Juniors is an extension of the Young Athletes program that focuses on a variety of sports specific skills that children can use in future sports team participation. Unified Juniors is for children ages 8-12 years old with and without intellectual disabilities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I start this program at my school?

Fit this program into school day activities or after-school programming by using our easy-to-follow, one hour, weekly curriculum.

What is the cost?

The program is completely free of charge. You simply need a place to run the program (gym, large classroom, outdoor field, etc.) and a staff member passionate about sports and inclusion to serve as a coach!

What supplies will we use?

Special Olympics Minnesota will provide a kit full of fun sports equipment and training materials.

Who can lead the class?

A group of students who want to spread the unified movement ages 15 and up. We recommend at least 2:1 ratio for athletes to volunteers.

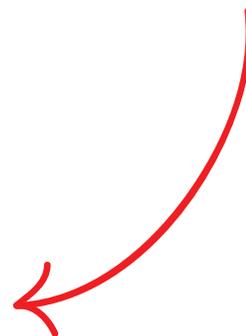
What is the benefit to our school and students?

Building a school community of acceptance and welcoming of people of all abilities improves the life and experience of all students. This program helps unite students with and without intellectual disabilities as they find a common ground in the joy of sports and play.

What skills will my students develop?

Unified Juniors focuses on the following sports:

Poly Hockey	Soccer	Softball
Tennis	Volleyball	Track & Field
Aquatics	Basketball	Flag Football





UNIFIED SPORTS

UNIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why Unified Physical Education?

Unified Physical Education provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing educational and physical activities, using the power of Special Olympics. The Unified Physical Education course is structured around the national physical education standards and grade-level outcomes.

Educational benefits for students and the school

- School climate improvement through acceptance, friendship, and social inclusion
- Hands-on leadership development
- Social-emotional learning through student interactions and activities
- Genuine inclusion and sports experiences for students of diverse ability levels
- Students empowered to educate and impact the entire school community

How do I get started?

1. Contact the Special Olympics MN State Office. We will help support you throughout this journey of inclusion in your school.
2. Connect with General Education and Special Education Teachers in your school about the class
3. Gain Administrative Approval

This is not your typical physical education course!

Unified Physical Education is a unique opportunity for students of varying ability levels and backgrounds to come together on equal terms through ongoing fitness, sports, leadership and wellness activities. This course focuses on the physical, intellectual and social growth of all participants.



“We need to raise our children to be advocates for the voiceless. There is not a day in my Unified P.E. class that I don’t shed a tear. It is that moving.”

- Lisa Smith, Unified physical education teacher at Proctor Middle and High School

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF UNIFIED PHYSICAL EDUCATION





UNIFIED SPORTS

Through SOMN programming, more than 8,000 people with intellectual disabilities showcase their skills to their peers, their communities and the world. In braving their attempts, they gain new experiences and become confident and empowered by their accomplishments. They also create lifelong bonds with fellow athletes, volunteers and people in their communities.

What is a Unified Team?

A Unified Team combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. By participating on a Unified team, you will have the chance to break down barriers and stigmas associated with disabilities and build life-long relationships! Let's #ChangeTheGame and use sports as the catalyst for social change empowering students to foster inclusion and acceptance.

How do I Start a Team?

With over 17 different sports offered year-round, there is an opportunity for all schools and students to get involved! Starting a team is a great opportunity to bring students together to work on teamwork, self-esteem, and sport specific skills. The state office is here to help! Contact us today and we will walk you through the process of starting a team in your school.

Where Does My Team Play?

Special Olympics Minnesota currently offers three options on where your team can play:

1. Unified Competitions: students are able to compete against other schools for individual awards (gold, silver, bronze) in a Unified format. Students are required to turn in medical forms, and coaches are required to go through online coach's trainings in order to participate. School teams are eligible to compete in State, National and World Games.
2. Unified Invitationals: students are able to play against other schools in a recreational setting. We require a signed waiver form to participate in these events. This option is all about the social aspect of what Unified means.
3. School Sports: students can play Unified Sports in their school in whichever way they want. Some examples include but not limited to Unified Kickball, soccer, ballroom dancing, roller blading and basketball.





UNIFIED WELLNESS

Why Unified Wellness?

Special Olympics Minnesota's Unified Wellness class is a Unified approach to improving and protecting health and wellness for people with and without intellectual disabilities. Unified Health and Wellness offers participants a comprehensive, 360-degree look at wellness and the human spirit. Together, athletes and Unified partners are empowered to challenge and change the way they look at diet, daily exercise and lifestyle choices.

Unified Health and Wellness consists of 4 pillars; Emotional, Nutritional, Physical, and Social wellness.

Course goals for class members

- Increase in emotional, nutritional, physical, social wellness
- Foster new friendships and social inclusion amongst classmates
- Reinforce positive habits and reasoning to make better health & lifestyle choices
- Advance social and leadership competencies
- Deepen understanding of wellness strategies to help foster healthy lifestyles

Educational benefits for class members and school community

- School climate improvement through acceptance, friendship and social inclusion
- Hands-on leadership development
- Social-emotional learning through student interactions and activities
- Genuine inclusion experiences for students of diverse ability levels
- Students empowered to educate and impact the entire school community

This is not your typical health class!

This course is designed as a high school health and wellness course aligned to national health standards. However, because each school system is different and has unique goals and interests, the course could be structured in a variety of ways.





100% of students with intellectual disabilities reported a significant change in self-esteem and self-confidence after their school became a Unified Champion School.



“Inclusion is important because it feels good to be a part of the group and have lots of friends”

- April, from Woodbury, MN



WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Whole School Engagement supports the development of the student as an individual through bullying prevention and inclusive promotion initiatives that reach entire school populations through engaging and inspiring events. When an entire school accepts and includes students and others with intellectual disabilities, it is a powerful community of change. There are several campaigns, events and opportunities to engage in:

SPREAD THE WORD CAMPAIGN

PERSON FIRST CAMPAIGN

POLAR PLUNGE

UNIFIED DANCE MARATHON

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



WHOLE SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT

SPREAD THE WORD CAMPAIGN

Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing effort by Special Olympics and our supporters to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word “retarded” and encourage people to pledge to stop using it. The campaign, created by youth, is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support at r-word.org and to promote the inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why Pledge?

The R-word hurts because it’s exclusive. It’s offensive. It’s derogatory. The campaign asks people to pledge to stop saying the R-word as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people. Language affects attitudes and attitudes affect actions.

Why “Intellectual Disability” is Replacing “Mental Retardation”

The R-word is slang for the term mental retardation. Mental retardation was what doctors, psychologists, and other professionals used to describe people with significant intellectual impairment. Today the r-word has become a common word used by society as an insult. When used in this way, the r-word can apply to anyone or anything, and is not specific to someone with a disability. However, even when the r-word is not said to harm someone with a disability, it is hurtful. Because of this, Special Olympics, Best Buddies and the greater disability community prefers to focus on people and their gifts and accomplishments and to dispel negative attitudes and stereotypes. As language has evolved, Special Olympics and Best Buddies have updated their official terminology to use standard, person first language that is more acceptable to its constituents.



In 2017, more than 30,000 faculty, teachers and students were reached in Minnesota through the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign!

Contact the Special Olympics Minnesota state office to order your FREE Spread the Word kit to bring this campaign to your school!

PERSON FIRST CAMPAIGN

The Person First Campaign is a grassroots effort to promote the use of Person First language. Person First language focuses on the person first, emphasizing an individual's abilities, interests and characteristics, not their disabilities.

When describing someone, **always** start with the person first:

This is Josh.

When mentioning a disability, refer to their name first:

This is Josh. He has autism.

Never use language which makes the disability the focus:

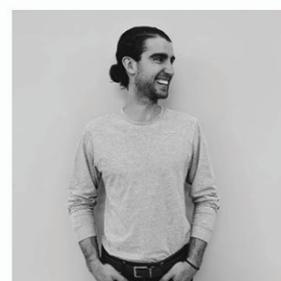
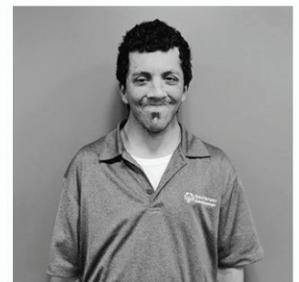
This is my autistic friend Josh.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR PERSON FIRST CAMPAIGN KIT:

- Person First Campaign Guide
 - Guide to Person First language
 - How to host a campaign in your school
 - Classroom curriculum & activities
 - Social media guide
- Person First posters to hang in your school
- Person First banner & ink pads for students to take the pledge
- Stickers & wristbands to hand out to those who take the pledge

**FOLLOW PERSON
FIRST ON
INSTAGRAM!**

@PRSNFRST





WHOLE SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT



COOL SCHOOL PLUNGE 2019

Minnesota's coolest fundraiser exclusive to K-12 students & staff



FEB
8 Rochester

FEB
15 Duluth

MAR
1 Minneapolis

FEB
8 Woodbury

FEB
22 Alexandria

MAR
8 Eden Prairie



Every dollar raised from the Polar Plunge directly benefit Special Olympics Minnesota. That means funding athletic, health and leadership programs for more than 8,200 athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state.



What's cooler than taking the Plunge and supporting Special Olympics? Enter: the Give Back, Get Unified program. Through this revenue share opportunity, up to 50% of the funds you raise goes back to your team.



WHOLE SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT

101.3 KDWB Presents

— UNIFIED —
DANCE
Marathon

for
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
MINNESOTA

#THROWBACK

support an awesome cause | have fun | #danceunified

Unified Dance Marathon is back - THROWBACK style! UDM 2018 will be more action-packed than ever, featuring four hours of non-stop dancing, entertainment and lots of retro fun. Join us to down on the dance floor, win prizes and raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota!

Saturday, November 17, 2018

1 - 5 pm.

Mall of America Rotunda

Register online and fundraise a minimum of \$50 to participate. The more money you raise, the cooler swag you'll receive! Entertainers, performances, food and beverage will be available throughout the entire day with a pump up crew on-site to keep dancers energized through the day!

YOUR SCHOOL KEEPS 50% OF FUNDS RAISED!

questions?

Contact Maureen Gruys at maureen.gruys@somn.org or 763.270.7146

FUNDRAISE.SOMN.ORG/UDM



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are the backbone of SOMN. There are over 14,000 volunteers annually that help make Special Olympics Minnesota events a reality! Every year there are a variety of events, volunteer roles and shifts available.

Thousands of volunteers are needed to assist in many aspects of competitions and special events. These duties include score-keeping, timing, officiating, escorting, staging of athletes, score runners, awards assistants and presenters, etc.

We love when groups come out to volunteer with us and accept all school clubs, sports teams, service organizations, and groups of friends/family that are passionate about our athletes. No sports knowledge is necessary, just a heart to serve.

- A volunteer shift is typically 4-6 hours.
- Volunteers ages 12-14 can volunteer alongside a parent.
- Ages 15+ can volunteer as an individual.
- Groups of any size can volunteer with Special Olympics.

"It was a wonderful experience! I smiled so much the day and I am so thankful for my experience. I strongly suggest others volunteer at one of Special Minnesota's events!"

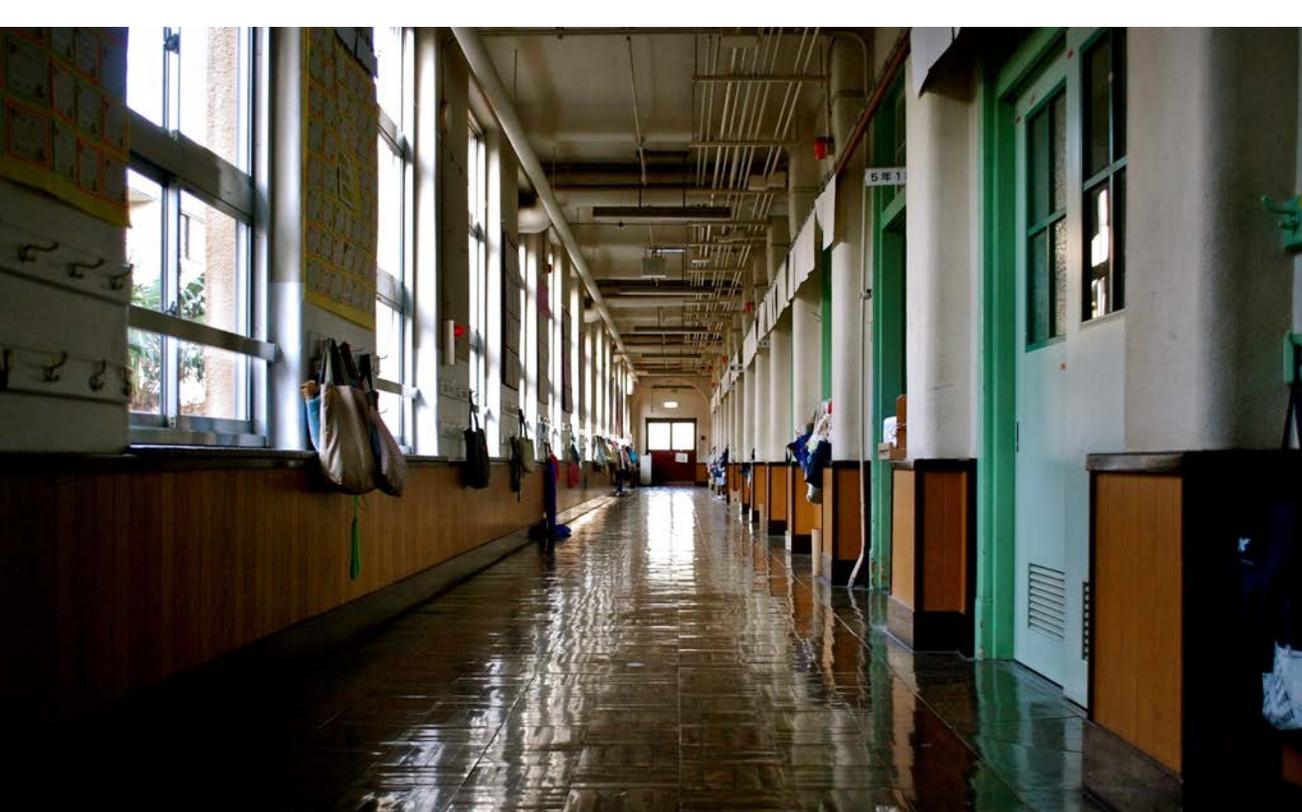
-Rick, Special Olympics Volunteer



To sign up as a group to volunteer visit somn.org/volunteers or contact Michele Bardwell at michele.bardwell@somn.org or 763.270.7181.



WHOLE SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT



SUSTAINABILITY

Why Fundraise?

School sustainability is a crucial component to SOMN and for the Unified Schools movement. It is SOMN's goal not only to provide resources to Champion Schools, but to help them thrive for years to come. Unified School's vision is to change school climate's towards acceptance and inclusion, and ultimately that will change society as a whole. Special Olympics Minnesota is there to support that cause, but it is truly schools that make it happen.

Give Back, Get Unified:

This program offers two excellent events in which students, staff, administration, teachers, parents and community members can partake in. The Polar Plunge and Unified Dance Marathon are both offered during the school year to enhance Unified Schools programs within the schools.

With the Give Back, Get Unified fundraising program, schools can also choose to fundraise within their community:

- Work concessions in your school
- Bake sales at school events such as conferences, back to school night, etc.
- Popcorn sales
- Car washes
- Bowl-a-thon, Walk-a-thon, etc.
- Valentine balloon sales
- Host a fundraising night- some examples include:
 - Ice cream socials
 - Breakfast for dinner night
 - Spaghetti dinner
 - Pancake breakfast
- Contact local restaurants and see if any would be interested in hosting a fundraising night
- Bag groceries at a local grocery store for tips



SCHOOL LIAISONS

The School Liaison is a crucial role for the Unified Schools Program to not only succeed, but thrive. The school liaison will be knowledgeable in Unified Schools initiatives, including the many different ways schools can get involved and grow.

Who should be our School Liaison?

A teacher, para professional, coach, or anyone who works in your school and is passionate about working with special needs students and is supportive of everything Unified Schools embodies.

Time commitment and stipend

The time commitment will vary, depending on programming needs. There is a stipend available for the School Liaison position. One stipend will be awarded per school. The amount of the stipend might change due to funds available. The stipend will be distributed at the end of the school year, once all reporting from the school is tuned in and the school is in good standing with SOMN.

What are the School Liaison's responsibilities?

- Complete all necessary paperwork to sign up school
- Fill out an annual report and submitting it to Special Olympics Minnesota
- The primary contact with SOMN Staff related to all Unified Schools initiatives. Each Unified School must appoint a School Liaison to work with SOMN staff members. This person will be responsible for communicating with SOMN Staff about inclusive initiatives taking place in your school

How do I report participation numbers?

You must go to somn.org/unifiedschools and report the necessary participation information for federal grant reporting purposes. This information is due the last day of each month.

SOLUTIONS TO COMMON ROADBLOCKS

LACK OF FUNDING

Special Olympics Minnesota has a School Sustainability Plan that by year three of involvement with the Unified Schools Program each school will be able to run independently and successfully on their own through a unique fundraising strategy.

LACK OF ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

Approach teachers and administration with a specific plan to implement Unified Schools initiatives. Consider inviting SOMN staff to present to them. Please be prepared to show why the Unified Schools Program is important for your school culture. Unified Schools can be implemented into any school setting.

FINDING QUALITY UNIFIED PARTNERS AND STUDENTS WHO CARE

To ensure students are serious and ready to make the commitment to Unified Schools, you may consider using an application and interview process. Special Olympics Minnesota has marketing resources available upon request for use in your school.

FINDING VOLUNTEERS

Ask friends at school who can't make the time commitment, but want to be involved. Ask for parental support and work with other service groups including National Honor Society, Student Council, Best Buddies, etc., or partner with other community organizations.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Special Olympics and its inclusive movement extend far beyond the school. There are dozens of ways to stay involved for life, from the front lines, to behind the scenes, from the sports-minded to the administratively savvy. Direct students to our website for more information on how to stay involved after graduation.



SOMN.ORG/GRADUATE

**Special
Olympics**
Minnesota



Special Olympics
Unified Schools

INDEX & RESOURCES

TERM	DEFINITION
Athlete	An individual receiving special education services participating in Special Olympic Minnesota programs, including Unified Schools.
Intellectual Disability	A term used to describe a person with certain limitations in cognitive functioning and other skills, including communication and self-care. These limitations cause a child to develop and learn more slowly or differently. Intellectual disability is the most common developmental disability.
School Liaison	An adult school representative who is the main contact with SOMN for Unified Schools. This representative can be a staff member, general education teacher, special education teacher, administrator, or anyone else passionate for students and inclusion opportunities.
Unified	A social movement that joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. By training together and playing together all involved have a path towards friendship and understanding.
Unified Partner	An individual receiving general education services who pairs up with an athlete to form a partnership while participating in SOMN programs, including Unified Schools.
Inclusion	The belief that all students can belong and participate. No child sits on the sidelines.

Classroom

- specialolympics.org/Sections/What_We_Do/Project_Unify/Project_Unify_Educator_Resources.aspx
- specialolympics.org/educators/
- getintoit.specialolympics.org/students/event-planner

Special Olympics

- sogn.org
- specialolympics.org/projectunify.aspx
- specialolympics.org/projectunifyresources/
- r-word.org/

Impact of Special Olympics Programming

- <http://bit.ly/2auvSad>
- <http://nyti.ms/2amKYzM>

Research Studies Conducted

- media.specialolympics.org/soi/files/healthy-athletes/SpecialOlympics_ResearchBibliography.pdf

Bullying Prevention

- <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/students-with-disabilities.asp>

