

What is a Special Olympics Unified Champion School®?

Unified Champion Schools promote social inclusion by bringing students with and without intellectual disabilities together on interscholastic sports teams, parallel to a varsity or junior varsity program. Participating schools incorporate an evidence-based youth leadership model that reduces bullying and teasing, overturns negative stereotypes and encourages healthy interactions.

Unified Champion Schools commit to three components: offering Special Olympics Unified Sports from students, establishing a Inclusive Youth Leadership Club and engaging the entire school community in activities and events that promote the inclusion of all students year-round.

“Unified is more than a sports league – it’s a way of life. Together as teammates in every sense, our Unified athletes and partners are creating school communities where inclusion, tolerance and acceptance of all students is the rule and not the exception.” -- Stacey Hengsterman, president and CEO of Special Olympics New York



A Global Movement to Inclusion

Unified Sports is one of the fastest growing sports movement in the world, with more and more schools embracing the program's unique ability to draw people with differing backgrounds together through a shared love of sports. Yet, for every student playing Unified in school, there are more than 100 students across New York who do not.

Statewide, Special Olympics New York and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association partner with more than 200 Unified Champion Schools and 8,200 participating students who play interscholastic Unified Bowling and Basketball.

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**Special
Olympics**
New York



Unified
Champion
Schools

Becoming a Unified Champion School means so much more than expanding the athletic program and increasing opportunities for students to compete in sports.

It is a commitment to providing an inclusive school community for future generations of students and their families as well as teachers and administrators. In taking this important step, you will join more than 7,500 schools across the country, and more than 200 in our state, where students are experiencing the many benefits of playing unified. Congratulations and thank you on behalf of Special Olympics New York.



"Unified Sports is one of the best things I have been a part of in my 16 years as a public school employee. The emotions that are generated watching the interactions between teams and players is something that is hard to place into words. The expressions on the parent faces is something I know I will remember for a long time. Our athletes are recognized in the hallways, and have gained the confidence to attend their proms, and other school activities. This is something that is truly wonderful."

- Richard R. DeMallie, Ed.D., Gloversville High School Principal

READY TO GET STARTED?

1 If you don't have this at your school, you should.

Visit www.specialolympicsny.org/unified to learn more about the program.

#PLAYUNIFIED

2 Take pride in a more socially inclusive school.

Unified is more than a sports league - it's a way of life.

#LIVEUNIFIED

3 Develop an inclusive community and happier society with Unified Sports.



#CHOOSETOINCLUDE

4 Contact us at unified@nyso.org and we'll help you get started.

"I have coached all levels from the CYO to Varsity; and this has been the most rewarding and inspiring experience yet."

-Ben Pierson-Unified Coach Mohonasen HS