

# How to Create a Unified Champion School

**Special Olympics**  
Northern California



The Special Olympics Unified Strategy for Schools is a unique education program that provides a social inclusion model combining students with and without intellectual disabilities on school sports teams (Unified Sports), through inclusive student clubs and schoolwide initiatives.

**Step 1-** Find a “Champion” at the school level who will be the liaison with Special Olympics. This could be a teacher, student, club advisor, administrator, anyone you think you would be excited about the engagement with Special Olympics

**Step 2-** Connect that Champion with Special Olympics. Bring in others as needed (administrators, other teachers, students) to identify a student group or groups who want to initiate a Whole School Involvement activity. Once you know you are moving forward and with what group...

**Step 3-** Pick what you want to do! Check out the blog [www.ourunifiedschools.com](http://www.ourunifiedschools.com) or come up with your own ideas. Work with the student group to help them brainstorm ideas that sound interesting to them and like a good fit for their campus. Here are some of the Whole School Involvement categories:

- Unified Sports
- Unified Recreation (ex. P.E., pick-up style games)
- Inclusive Young Athletes
- Best Buddies
- Partner Club (any club on campus who is partnering with Special Olympics to bring multiple components to a campus. I.e. Student Council, Honors Society, Leadership, or even a Special Olympics Club)
- Volunteering
- Fans in the Stands
- Get Into It (<https://getintoit.specialolympics.org/>)
- Polar Plunge
- Respect Rally or Unified Sports Rally
- Respect or Ability Awareness Week
- School Wide R Word Pledge Drive
- Unified Sports Day
- Youth Summit



**Step 4-** Plan your event and have fun! Have the students take ownership of the event, and actively participate in the planning. The planning group can include students with and without disabilities making it a great campus project!



**Step 5-** Involve Special Olympics all along the way. We have great resources and knowledge of how to get started.

To get started with creating your Unified Champion School contact us at [schools@sonc.org](mailto:schools@sonc.org) or call 925-944-8801 xt. 218 for the Schools Department and you will be connected with the local Area Manager!



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THE WORLD  
IS A  
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