



## **Unified Champion Schools**

### **School Awards Application 2023-2024**

**Special Olympics Louisiana (SOLA)** is excited that your school has taken the steps to begin to, or continue to, offer quality social inclusion through Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) implementation. We're so excited that your school recognizes the positive impact of UCS initiatives on school campuses and communities by empowering educators and students to create a school climate of social inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools aims to promote social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting school-wide change. With sports as the foundation, the three-component model (**Unified Sports/Activities, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement**) offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip youth with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with and without intellectual disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in and feel a part of all activities, opportunities, and functions.

SOLA will provide training opportunities for youth, coaches, and school staff through topic-specific webinars, workshops, and Unified Youth Summits. Schools will receive consistent communication from SOLA staff via our UCS newsletters that will provide updates and highlight specific schools across the state.

The form below registers your school with Special Olympics Louisiana for the 2023-2024 school year. Please communicate with your administrators, coaches, and student leaders to determine what sports/activities your school plans to offer during the year before completing this form.

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

## **Unified Champion Schools Program Funds**

Special Olympics Louisiana is committed to ensuring every individual has an equal opportunity to participate safely and successfully in physical education, athletics, extracurricular and social activities that lead to a healthy, active and fulfilling lifestyles.

Unified Champion Schools Program Funds offer support for activities that bring students with and without intellectual disabilities together as classmates, teammates, friends, and agents of change in their school and community. The focus is moving towards meaningful interaction building relationships, creating equal opportunities and a level playing field where students can discover that they all have uniquely different abilities.

**Please select the choices for each component that apply to your school**

**Unified Sports** is any time students with and without intellectual disabilities are able to play or compete together in fitness or sports. This can happen in a PE class or afterschool or even at recess. **(Check all that apply)**

- Young Athletes:** Inclusive sports and play program for grades PK - 2nd to build social, cognitive, and physical skills.
- Unified Sports Recreation:** Promote social inclusion and increase sport skills and knowledge in a non-competitive Inclusive sports setting.
- Unified Sports Player Development:** Teammates of higher ability serving as mentors to assist players of lower ability.
- Unified Sports Competitive:** 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Football <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf <input type="checkbox"/> Powerlifting <input type="checkbox"/> Softball <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis <input type="checkbox"/> Track & Field <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/> Unified P.E. <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness <input type="checkbox"/> Corn Hole <input type="checkbox"/> Pickle Ball <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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**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. (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Unified Club <input type="checkbox"/> Best Buddies <input type="checkbox"/> Unified Pair on Student Council <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activation Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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**Whole School Engagement** provide 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. (Check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Spread the Word Campaign <input type="checkbox"/> yFans in the Stands <input type="checkbox"/> Unified Sports Day <input type="checkbox"/> Field Day <input type="checkbox"/> Pep Rally <input type="checkbox"/> SO Unified Monthly Challenge <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
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**How to Apply**

Fill out the application and hand it, email it, or fax it to Special Olympics Louisiana.

Fax: 1-888-836-2187 Address: 46 Louis Prima Dr. Suite A, Covington, LA 70433

Email: [schools@specialolympicsla.org](mailto:schools@specialolympicsla.org)

**If you have questions or would like to speak to someone about making your school more inclusive, please reach out to one of our Unified Champion Schools Managers.**

<b>Paul Wineski- SE Louisiana</b> <a href="mailto:paul.wineski@specialolympicsla.org">paul.wineski@specialolympicsla.org</a> 1 (985) 345-6644 ext. 108	<b>Jana Morgan – North Louisiana</b> <a href="mailto:jana.morgan@specialolympicsla.org">jana.morgan@specialolympicsla.org</a> 1 (985) 345-6644 ext. 114 318-617-4116-Cell	
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**How Much Money Can You Get?**

- If your school plans to use some of the funds to start or grow Unified Sports, you can receive up to \$2,000. You also must have **1 teacher certified in Unified Sports**.
- If your school does not plan to start or grow Unified Sports, you can receive up to \$1,000.

**School Districts** are also able to apply for larger amounts. Please ask for the UCS District Application and we would be more than happy to get your district on board.



### **School Award Funding Requirements**

1. Sign and Return Unified Champion School Application with completed commitment form below. By signing this form, you're acknowledging that you understand what a Unified Champion School is and that you will promote inclusion on your campus.
2. Your school must also host a Spread the Word Inclusion campaign or host one of the challenges within our Whole School Engagement Guidebook.
3. By the end of the school year, your school should complete the School Award Reporting form that was given with your acceptance letter.
4. Every school that is benefiting from Special Olympics School Awards needs to have one teacher complete an online certification of Unified Sports. Please complete the information below for the coaches name or projected coaches name.
5. All schools will receive a survey from Special Olympics North America by the end of April. It is important that the survey is either filled out by the school. These surveys can affect the amount of funding we receive each year to provide school awards.

### **Allowable Expenses you can include in your award**

- Teacher/Coach Stipends
- Official Fees
- Facility Rental
- Meals/Food
- Transportation
- Supplies- Sports equipment, uniforms (excluding shoes), club t-shirts
- Printing
- Professional Development

### **Unallowable Expenses that can't be included in your award**

- Apparel (excluding uniforms or club shirts)
- Gift Cards
- Promo Items
- Fundraising Costs
- Entertainment costs (DJ's, etc)

Please list the teacher/coach that is certified or becoming certified in unified sports at your school.

Coach Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Completion/Projected Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write the amount of funds being requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tax ID Number/ W-9 from School** \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you plan to use the funds:

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Please break down the costs of your plans:

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Applications will be accepted at the below deadline during this school year. The school award submission deadline will be November 17, 2023. All applications will be reviewed after that date. Award letters and decisions for the school awards will be announced and released shortly after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please submit school award applications to your SOLA staff liaison. Contact listed on page 3.

You are also agreeing to complete our school award reporting form (attached) by May 10, 2024.

**Principal/Admin Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal/Admin Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal/Admin Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Job Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Unified Champion Schools Commitment Form**

Unified Champion Schools is a strategy for schools to grow inclusivity on their campus. Focusing on our three-components, Unified Sports, Wholes School Engagement, Inclusive Youth Leadership, to activate youth and educators to come together to promote acceptance and inclusion. For the past 14 year, Unified Champion Schools have been implemented in over 8,000 schools across the nation. Every school utilized each of the components differently but their goal of inclusivity remains the same.

<b>School Name</b>	
Mailing Address	
City/ Zip	
<b>School Primary Contact</b>	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
<b>School Administration Contact</b>	
Email Address	
<b>Total # of Students</b>	
<b>Total # of Students with Intellectual Disabilities</b>	
<b>Signature of School Primary Contact</b>	
<b>Signature of School Administrator</b>	
<b>Date</b>	