Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics
Unified Champion Schools

2016-17 Participating School Corporations & Special Education Co-ops

Anderson Community Schools
Bremen Public Schools
Center Grove Community Schools
East Central Special Services
East Noble Schools
Elkhart Community Schools
Evansville Vanderburgh Schools
Hamilton Southeastern Schools
Logansport Community Schools
Marion Community Schools
Mississinewa Community Schools
Mount Vernon Community Schools
MSD of Pike Township
MSD of Washington Township
Noblesville Schools
School City of Mishawaka
Seymour Community Schools
Shelbyville Central Schools
Sheridan Community Schools
South Central Area Special Education Coop
Southwest Allen County Schools
Tippecanoe Valley Schools
Warsaw Community Schools

INTRODUCTION

Unified Champion Schools (UCS) draws on Special Olympics' longstanding expertise in accessible sports coaching, promoting inclusive schools and communities, and advocating for individuals with disabilities to provide educators with the tools to meet this goal. The resource employs Special Olympics Unified Sports® strategies for use in an inclusive physical education and gross motor education program as a way to assist educators in bringing students with and without disabilities together to learn the skills and knowledge needed to participate successfully in inclusive sports and fitness programs in their schools and communities.

FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS AT HOME . . .

Parents, siblings, friends and young athletes can train together at home with the Unified Champion Schools activities and games.

MAKING CONNECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY . . .

Local Special Olympics Indiana county programs offer an opportunity for parents, siblings, friends and young athletes to come together in a guided training experience led by a Special Olympics Indiana coach and volunteers!

CONNECTING FRIENDS AT SCHOOL . . .

Early childhood educators, therapists and P.E. teachers can utilize the Unified Champion Schools program in the school setting. Unified Champion Schools participants progress and learn sports skills at their developmental level through the designed curriculum.

WHAT IS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS (UCS)?

- An innovative sports play program for pre-school, elementary, and middle school students with and without intellectual disabilities.
- A complement to the Champions Together partnership between Special Olympics Indiana and the IHSAA) that targets high school students.
- An in-school training culminating in a Track & Field Day at the high school.

THE 4 MAIN GOALS OF UCS

- Cognitive, physical, social & emotional development.
- Engagement with local Special Olympics Indiana program.
- Whole family opportunity to enjoy the Special Olympics Indiana experience.
- School inclusion with peers.

WHY UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS?

The program was created:

- To meet the physical and developmental needs of elementary & middle school students.
- To offer families the opportunity to share in the success of their future athlete.
- Provide an appreciation of fitness and sport for the entire family.
- Provide preparation for participation in sports - families will see the potential for their child.

UCS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL SCHOOL LEVELS:

- Preschools, Elementary Schools, Middle Schools

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR SUCCESS AS A FUTURE SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE

- Foundational skills, walking and running, balancing and jumping, trapping and catching, throwing, striking, kicking, and advanced skills.

2016-17 PROGRAM GOALS

- Recruit & train at least 20 school systems to join the Unified Champion Schools program.
- Involve at least 1200 new students with intellectual disabilities between ages two (2) and 15.
- Pilot test a transition plan in 3 County Programs to motivate young athletes and their families to join their community-based County Program.
- Evaluate and publicize results as a basis for future growth.

Questions? Contact Mark Booth (mbooth@soindiana.org).