Champions Together

LAST YEAR . . .
During the 2018-19 school year 94 high schools and 9 middle schools were awarded the Champions Together “Unified Champion School” banner for achieving all four (4) of the pillars, 90 schools participated in Unified Track & Field, 176 participating schools raised in excess of $200,000 for the support and expansion of Champions Together activities and 439 schools achieved at least one (1) of the Unified Champion Schools goals. There were a total of 43 schools including high school and middle who earned the 50th Anniversary golden banner.

CHAMPIONS TOGETHER BANNER PROGRAM (2019-20 school year)
The Champions Together partnerships with the Indiana High School Athletic Association and Indiana Middle Level Education Association (Champions Together in the Middle) will provide a “Unified Champions School” banner to all partnership member schools that meet all of the following Project Unify goals:

1. All school sponsored activities must be planned, organized and administered by an Inclusive Student Leadership team that strives to do things WITH students with intellectual disabilities NOT FOR them.
2. The school must participate in at least one activity designed around Whole School Engagement that promotes and encourages awareness, respect and inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities.
3. The school must organize and participate in at least one of the Unified Sports activities such as IHSAA Unified Track & Field or Unified Flag Football, SOIN Unified Bocce or Unified Bowling, a Unified practice or clinic, or a Unified competition with students with intellectual disabilities OR local Special Olympics athletes.
4. Fundraising—a school must raise a minimum of $1500 (high school) or $750 (middle school) for the support and expansion of Champions Together programs.

IHSAA SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS
Here are some simple rules for IHSAA member schools that conduct Special Olympics fundraisers.

1. Please contact Mike Hasch (mhasch@soindiana.org) or Lee Lonzo (LLonzo@ihsaa.org) as soon as you plan a fundraising event so that they can establish a Champions Together fundraising page to monitor your donations and credit your school towards the Champions Together banner award.
2. All funds collected should be deposited in a school account immediately following any event.
3. Within two (2) weeks of the event, a check payable to SO Indiana should be mailed to:
   Special Olympics Indiana
   Attn: Mike Hasch, Champions Together
   6200 Technology Center Drive, Suite 105
   Indianapolis, IN 46278
   The tax ID number is: 35-1262574

   Be sure to include your school name on a note with the check to ensure proper credit.
4. If a school receives a check from a donor payable to Special Olympics, that check should be immediately enclosed with the school check.
5. If the fundraiser includes the sale of merchandise, all proceeds above the cost of the merchandise should be sent to SO Indiana at the address above. Neither the IHSAA nor SO Indiana can be responsible for any expenses associated with fundraisers, including, but not limited to, unrecovered costs of unsold merchandise.
6. Questions? Contact Mike Hasch (mhasch@soindiana.org) or Lee Lonzo (LLonzo@ihsaa.org).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CHAMPIONS TOGETHER
The primary purpose of IHSAA school fundraising for Special Olympics is to support the continued growth and operation of the Champions Together partnership. These funds help support schools by providing grants for Unified Sports, sponsorship of the IHSAA Unified Track & Field Championships, providing the Champions Together School Assembly, hosting school workshops and general support of schools establishing Champions Together Clubs. Through fundraising schools have the power to "pass it forward" by providing additional opportunities for more students to become involved in the #InclusionRevolution.

If schools wish to make a ceremonial check presentation SO Indiana will attempt to have a representative in attendance.

Questions? Contact Mike Hasch, Director of Unified Champion Schools (mhasch@soindiana.org) or Lee Lonzo, Champions Together Director and IHSAA Educational Consultant (LLonzo@ihsaa.org).

FOLLOW CHAMPIONS TOGETHER
Here are the various ways to follow Champions Together through social media.

- FACEBOOK: ChampionsTogether
- TWITTER: @champstog ether
- INSTAGRAM: championstog ether
- SNAPCHAT: @champstog ether
- YOUTUBE: Champions Together

* 50th Anniversary Golden Banner Winner