



UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

Award Banner Program with Champions Together in the Middle

The *Champions Together in the Middle* partnership between IMLEA and Special Olympics Indiana provides “Unified Champion School” banners to middle/intermediate schools that have distinguished themselves through inclusive activities and complete the following components.



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 and/or a school wide fundraiser for Special Olympics Indiana.
3. The school must organize and participate in at least one **Unified Sports®** activity such as Unified Track and Field, a Unified fitness club, Unified Physical Education, or a Unified competition with students with intellectual disabilities OR local Special Olympics athletes.
4. The school must **fundraise** a minimum of \$750 for Special Olympics Indiana to assist in maintaining and expanding Champions Together in the Middle activities.



2018-2019 Champions Together in the Middle Banner Winners:

Boston, Brownsburg East, Brownsburg West, Lowell, Mt. Vernon, Norwell, Rochester, Shelbyville, South Ripley, and Tri-West.





HOW TO START

Teacher's Guide to Champions Together in the Middle

Becoming a Champions Together in the Middle Banner Winner is easy but STARTING can seem overwhelming. These ten suggestions will help you start the inclusion revolution at your middle school!

1. Find **FACULTY MENTORS**
 - ❖ Ideally look for 3-4 faculty mentors to help this group excel. This can be done with as few as one adult or as many as your entire staff.
2. Find **STUDENT LEADERS**
 - ❖ Suggest that your faculty mentors nominate a few kids each who have great hearts and a passion to be kind. This will require extra time of the students so choosing kids who are not already over involved is ideal. This group will become the start of your Inclusive Student Leadership Team. Most schools start with 5-10 students.
3. Schedule **ACTIVATION MEETING/ REGIONAL TRAINING**
 - ❖ Contact Tori Batson (tbatson@soindiana.org) to discuss training possibilities. Training is *for students* with faculty mentors present. Training can happen at your school or at a host school who is currently excelling with Champions Together in the Middle.
4. Set a **PLAN** with your students
 - ❖ During the activation meeting/regional training, students and faculty will have time to plan and come up with ideas.
5. Get plan approved by **ADMINISTRATION/TRANSPORTATION**
 - ❖ Check with administration to ensure plans are possible. Secure transportation if needed.
6. Put plan on **CALENDAR**
 - ❖ Have all dates put on school calendar. Share announcements when events are coming up. Make other students aware of what is happening.
7. **IMPLEMENT** plan
 - ❖ Help students ensure plans are successfully executed. Help revise when needed.
8. Earn **BANNER**
 - ❖ Complete all four pillars. Fill out end of year survey by sent by Special Olympics Indiana.
9. Attend annual **LUNCHEON**
 - ❖ Celebrate with other banner winners at the middle and high school level!
10. **DISCUSS CHANGES** for the next year.
 - ❖ Meet with your leadership team (students and faculty) and discuss improvements for the next school year.

