

Unified Champion Schools

Special Olympics
Arizona



VISION OF UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

Unified Champion Schools activate young people to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics. Special Olympics Arizona's Unified Schools program has grown tremendously over the years into over 215 schools who are currently participating in Unified throughout the state of Arizona. The Unified Champion Schools® approach incorporates three pillars of Special Olympics programs including: **Unified Sports®, Inclusive Youth Leadership, Whole School Engagement**, and related activities, while enhancing the youth experience and empowering them to be change agents in their communities!

UNIFIED SPORTS

AIA UNIFIED SPORTS® (HIGH SCHOOL)

A partnership was formed between Special Olympics Arizona and the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) with the sole purpose of building a statewide Unified Sports® system. Through participation in AIA Unified Sports, students with intellectual disabilities are able to gain a true high school athletic experience just as they would on any other high school sports team. AIA Unified Sports teams participate in sanctioned league play, as well as in AIA-sanctioned invitational and tournaments at the local and state level. For more information, visit <http://www.specialolympicsarizona.org/what-we-do/unified/AIAUnifiedSports!>



UNIFIED SPORTS® CURRICULUM

Unified Sports® training and competition within the Physical Education (P.E.) Classroom and Special Olympics Arizona competitions. The Curriculum follows Arizona P.E. State Standards and Students receive P.E. credit towards graduation. For more information, visit <http://www.specialolympicsarizona.org/what-we-do/unified/Unified-Sports!>

INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP



UNIFIED CLUB

Unified Clubs facilitate campus activities and opportunities including: disability awareness campaigns, pep rallies for unified sports teams, inclusion of Special Education student representatives in student government, school fundraising through One-Minute Challenge, and offer socially inclusive activities outside of school. For more information, visit <http://www.specialolympicsarizona.org/what-we-do/unified/unifiedschools!>

UNIFIED ARTS (STARTING 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR)

Special Olympics Arizona sees the need and is focused on breaking down barriers and maximizing opportunities for our Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners to join the art CommUnity. Special Olympics Arizona offers CommUnity-based Unified Arts, which is open to people of all ages, all abilities, and all skill levels, which engages your CommUnity (and creative side) as you build local friendships through art! Special Olympics Arizona also offers Unified Art Programs in schools throughout Arizona, starting in 2017-2018 school year. Students with and without intellectual disabilities come together to create a Unified, creative environment for everyone to express themselves creatively.

STATE YOUTH ACTIVATION COMMITTEE (STATE YAC)

The State Youth Activation Committee (STATE YAC) is a group of high school students with and without intellectual disabilities who support Unified programs including: Unified Sports, Spread the Word To End The Word, Minute That Matters, Healthy Athletes, and State & Area Sports Competitions. State YAC members develop strategies, lead initiatives, and organize events that promote the respect, inclusion, and acceptance of all people, regardless of abilities. For more information and to apply for the State YAC, fill out the online State YAC Application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/stateyac!>



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WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD (R-WORD CAMPAIGN)

Spread the Word to End the Word (R-Word) Campaign promotes respect and inclusion for people with and without intellectual disabilities on your campus. Schools can receive an R-Word Kit filled with collateral, giveaways, and an R-Word banner for your entire school to sign and pledge #Respect! For more information, visit <http://www.specialolympicsarizona.org/what-we-do/unified/r-word/>



MINUTE THAT MATTERS

Raising funds to benefit your Special Olympics Arizona Unified program has never been so fun!



The Minute That Matters is a 60-second fundraiser that engages your entire campus! With 60 seconds on the clock, students encourage their entire school to fundraise by donating all their loose change. Once you have your final fundraising total, let us know how well you did and congratulate yourselves because 100% of funds raised during those 60-seconds goes directly back to your school's Unified program! Talk about a fun, easy, and exciting to fundraise for your school! Some schools even challenge their principals and school administration to sing "I'm a little teapot" at a pep rally or even spend the night on their school's roof if they met their Minute That Matters fundraiser!

UNIFIED FAN ACTIVATION

Students! Do you want Special Olympics to come your school on lunch to play unified games like bag toss, ping pong, basketball, and more? WHO WOULDN'T?

The Unified Fan Activation Truck comes fully stocked with Unified Sports like Corn Toss, Ladder Ball, Strider Bikes, Hula Hoops, and a R-Word Banner for your entire campus to sign throughout the event! We will have music playing and might even challenge your students, with and without intellectual disabilities, to a Unified Dance Off for a SPECIAL PRIZE! Don't worry, we won't forget to bring tons of giveaways, too! Are you interested? Book the Unified Fan Activation Truck by completing the Unified Fan Activation Survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UnifiedFanActivation!>



I want my school to be unified, what do I do now?

Discuss the program with school administration then contact the Special Olympics Arizona's Director of Support Programs to set up a meeting at your school. For more information, visit <http://www.specialolympicsarizona.org/what-we-do/unified/unifiedschools!>

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