



Play Unified. Live Unified. Teach Unified.

Special Olympics Ontario's Unified Champion Schools builds on Special Olympics values, principles, practices, and experiences to shape a generation that welcomes everyone.

The Unified Champion School approach focuses on empowering students of all abilities to reach their full potential through inclusive sports while providing the opportunity to work collaboratively to spearhead change as leaders in their schools and communities.

Unified Champion Schools is an inclusive strategy that is woven into the school's culture. It is built on the foundation of three key pillars; **inclusive sports and health, youth leadership, and whole school engagement** to create lasting change.



INCLUSIVE SPORTS & HEALTH

Inclusive sports and health integrates individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on teams for sport training and competition to promote social engagement and development. Additionally, it offers students access to wellness opportunities and knowledge that is essential for leading an active and healthy lifestyle.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth leadership gives the opportunity for all students to have a voice in their school and community and allows students to learn from diverse perspectives. Students become champions of acceptance, respect, and human dignity within their communities.



WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Whole school engagement activities reach and impact the majority of the school's population and create meaningful opportunities for students to participate in and contribute to their school community.

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Where already implemented in North America, UCS has shown a significant impact in a variety of areas:¹

- **94%** of liaisons felt that the UCS program created a more socially inclusive environment
- **91%** of liaisons indicated a reduction in bullying.
- **95%** of liaisons reported increased participation of students with intellectual disabilities in school activities.
- **50% reduction in depression** for athletes who participate in Special Olympics
- **15% reduction in diabetes** for athlete who participate in Special Olympics

By joining Unified Champion Schools, you will have access to a variety of resources and events

- A connective inclusive community of Schools
- An inclusive school strategy
- Youth leadership opportunities lesson plans & resources
- Health and Fitness Resources
- Whole school engagement applications
- Professional development and mentorship
- Inclusive Schools Teacher Conference
- School competitions & events
- Provincial Championships

Involvement in Unified Champion Schools prepares individuals for a seamless transition into Special Olympics community programs bringing lifelong rewards!

