



Teacher Mentorship

The Teacher Mentorship Program was designed to provide a seamless transition for new teachers becoming a part of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. Mentees are encouraged to create dialogue with their mentors and look to them for guidance, support, and feedback while beginning their Special Olympics journey.

The Special Olympics UCS Team encourages mentors and mentees to meet approximately **four times** per year. Topics for meetings are open to the discretion of the partnership but some ideas may include:

- **Navigating and engaging administration**
 - How to get administration on board with the initiative
 - How to receive funding for your program
 - What to do if you encounter hesitant or difficult administration.
- **Establishing school culture**
 - How have you woven this into your school culture
 - How to recruit other teachers to be involved
 - How to encourage other teachers to create more inclusive classrooms.
- **Best practices for getting started**
 - What sports are easiest to start with
 - What did your program look like at the beginning vs How does it look now
 - What challenges did you encounter in the beginning
- **Recruitment and retention:**
 - How to get students involved, specifically for Unified programming.
 - How to keep students engaged and participating throughout the years.
 - What opportunities are offered to students once they graduate
- **Logistics:**
 - Travel & Safety
 - Overnight trips & Parents
 - Hosting
- **Curriculum development:**
 - How do the principles of SO transfer to classrooms practices
 - What classes at your school currently offer inclusive opportunities?
 - How do you approach administration to integrate inclusive courses into your school

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