



# SPORT FESTIVALS

These events target the Active Start and FUNdamentals stages of the Long-Term Development Model, providing students with the opportunity to explore various sport and activity stations throughout the day.

## WHO?

Last year, over 1600 students from across Ontario participated in Sport Festivals. These events are open to all elementary students however, they are best suited to those who are new to sport or looking to build foundational skills.

## WHY?

Sport Festivals offer a gateway to Special Olympics and sport competition for our youngest athletes, focusing on developing physical literacy and movement confidence. Participation in Special Olympics is not a one-time event, but a lifelong opportunity.

## WHAT?

**Active Start** focuses on foundational movement skills. The Active Start foundation is crucial for children to build the necessary skills to take part in any number of sports later in life.

**FUNDamentals** focuses on enhancing students' sport skills, increasing their daily activity, and building on the foundation of the Active Start program through low-organizational games and activities.



## Unified Champion Schools Involvement

The Unified Champion Schools strategy uses sport and wellness as a foundation in combination with two other major pillars, to connect Special Olympic Athletes and Unified partners and create an environment of acceptance and inclusion beyond the playing field. Unified Champion Schools prepare all students with lifelong tools and training. This school strategy builds a climate where students work and grow with each other through opportunity for all.

At Sport Festivals, Unified participation offers classmates the opportunity to connect and learn from each other. Unified at this level works best with 1:1 ratio participation (1 Special Olympics athlete: 1 Unified Partner).

**There is NO cost to participate in these programs!**