



2023-2024 Unified Champion Schools Agreement

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools school agreement is a contract signed by schools henceforth known as “delegations” that participate in Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (UCS). Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a Special Olympics Inc® program, funded by the Department of Education. This program engages schools to create climates of inclusion, acceptance, respect, and human dignity for all students with and without intellectual disabilities. Its approach incorporates Special Olympics sports, leadership and related activities that empower youth to be change agents in their communities. In this program, special education and general education students alongside educators and administrators are encouraged to collaborate to create supportive classrooms, school-wide activities, opportunities for growth, and success for all. When everyone in a school fosters a socially inclusive school climate that emphasizes acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students, schools become places where no student is isolated because of the degree or type of disability or the services required to meet their needs.

The 3 pillars of Unified Champion Schools are Unified Sports, Whole School Engagement and Youth Leadership:

1. **Unified Sports:** School sports teams that bring together people with intellectual disabilities (Athletes) and those without disabilities (Unified Partners) for training and Olympic competition.
2. **Whole School Engagement:** Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach the majority of the school population.
3. **Inclusive Youth Leadership:** Students with and without intellectual disabilities working together to lead and plan advocacy, awareness, and other Special Olympics and related inclusive activities throughout the school year.

The delegations that exemplify these pillars are called Banner Schools. Banner Schools have achieved a high level of execution of the 10-point National Banner School Achievement Standard, and will receive district-wide and national recognition.

SODC realizes that UCS programming takes planning and financial resources to carry out the goals of your delegation and student leaders. With that in mind, we are offering direct funds to each second-year program—see funding requirements below. First-year programs will submit their financial and after-school transportation requests and SODC will work with them to accommodate their requests as funding allows.

The following are eligibility requirements of a Unified Champion School delegation. These requirements are the metrics each delegation will be assessed by at the end of the program year:

I. Implementing the pillars of Unified Champion Schools:

- a. Each delegation must be either a Category 1 or Category 2 school
 - i. Category 1 schools have established 2 out of the 3 pillars
 - ii. Category 2 schools have established all 3 pillars and are eligible to be on the Banner School track

II. Completion and submission of all required registration forms by the due dates:

- a. Accreditation: Each UCS delegation must fill out an accreditation packet at the beginning of every school year.
- b. Six Forms per Sport Season: Each Fall, Winter, and Spring season has 6 forms that must be filled out correctly and submitted by their due dates.
 - i. Athlete medical forms
 - ii. Partners consent form
 - iii. Registered training program (team rosters)
 - iv. Equipment and uniform request
 - v. Transportation request
 - vi. Whole School Engagement form

III. Apply for Funding

- a. Each second-year and above delegation can apply for a \$300 direct budget fund that can be spent on any inclusive event. This event(s) must meet the following requirements:
 - i. Funds must be spent on an event that directly affects students (no transportation or staff funding is allowed).
- b. Delegation must submit funding requests and receive approval in advance.
- c. Upon approval, the amounts requested will be given to the delegation and a fund procedure report file will be opened. This report file will close once the event is over and receipts for the requested amount are turned into SODC. If procedures are not closed within 14 days after the event, SODC will bill delegation for the outstanding receipt amount.
- d. All request forms must be submitted before February 1, 2024. After this date, SODC will consolidate the amounts left and reopen it to other delegations for additional funds.
- e. If needed, the additional funds request form is due by February 16, 2024.
- f. If Fall funds are not completely used, all excess money will move to the Spring open enrollment funds distribution. This is a first-come, first-served fund distribution program and opens on April 1, 2024.
- g. An after-school coach's stipend is available for Unified sports: Bocce, Flag Football, and Track and Field. This \$300 stipend is given to all certified Coaches that meet the After-School Unified Coaches Stipend requirements upon SODC approval.

IV. Certification

- a. Coaches must complete the coach’s requirements for certification
 - i. A 10-hour practicum is required by all coaches; these hours can be accomplished during practice.
 - ii. Only certified coaches will be acknowledged in practices and competition. SODC will provide coaches with seasonal uniforms.
- b. All coaches from elementary school to college are able to apply for the coach’s education and certification program. This program offers additional training in the form of conferences and online certifications.

V. Youth Summit Participation

- a. All UCS elementary, middle, and high schools must send a minimum of one athlete, one Unified Partner and one mentor to the 2023-2024 Youth Summit.

VI. Evaluation with Metric Completion

- a. Coaches must complete a Special Olympics DC UCS evaluation which contains all above metrics.
- b. Coaches must complete the UCS Liaison Survey sent by University of Massachusetts Boston at the end of the school year.

By signing this agreement, you certify to have read and understood the tasks required of you and your delegation in registering for the 2023-2024 Unified Champion School program. You agree to complete all requirements before the deadlines and provide all information when needed.

Delegation Name:

Head of Delegation Name and Signature:

Date: _____

School Principal of Delegation Name and Signature:

Date: _____

Senior Director of Youth Initiatives Name and Signature

Candace Ladd _____

Date: _____