



# Unified Sports®

## “Unified Champion Schools” Intent Form – Due June 1<sup>st</sup>

Special Olympics Nebraska (SONE) plans to again partner with the NSAA in providing **Unified Sports, Bowling** and **Unified Sports, Track & Field** during the 2019-20 school year. In partnering, SONE will likely be able to provide some funding through the “Unified Champion Schools” funding program.

- **Pre-requisites:** sign-up by **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**, verification of participation (during the season), wear the co-branded Special Olympics Nebraska/NSAA Unified Sports® patch (mailed later) on shirts or uniforms, fulfillment of the Unified Champion Schools components (see the following pages), and complete a brief survey (administered by University of Massachusetts) at the end of the school year
- **Grant Money Allotment:**
  - **Unified Sports, Bowling:** Schools participating in this activity for their first season will be eligible for \$500 funding through the Unified Champion Schools program. Returning schools will be eligible for \$300 funding through the Unified Champion Schools program.
  - **Unified Sports, Track & Field:** Schools participating in this inaugural activity will be eligible for a pro-rated amount of “seed” money based upon the number of schools that sign-up. Currently there is \$50K set aside to be prorated amongst participating schools through the Unified Champion Schools program. Money will be paid to schools after their competition begins next spring (2020).

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Intent to participate in Unified Sports® during the 2019-20 school year: **Bowling:** \_\_\_\_\_ YES

**Track & Field:** \_\_\_\_\_ YES

Superintendent/Designee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE MAIL, EMAIL, OR FAX A COPY TO THE NSAA & SONE BY June 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019.**

NSAA, ATTENTION: Dan Masters  
Nebraska School Activities Association  
500 Charleston St. Suite 1  
Lincoln, NE 68508-1119

Fax: 402-489-0934  
Email: [dmasters@nsaahome.org](mailto:dmasters@nsaahome.org)

SONE, ATTENTION: Sean Whitley  
Special Olympics Nebraska  
9427 F Street  
Omaha, NE 68127

Fax: 402-331-5964  
Email: [swhitley@sone.org](mailto:swhitley@sone.org)

# Unified Champion Schools 2019-2020 Participation Form

**Special Olympics**  
Nebraska



## What is Unified Strategy®?

Formerly called Project UNIFY®, Unified Strategy for Schools® provides significant positive outcomes for participants, and can play an important supporting role in state, district, and individual school strategic goals, whether it be promoting a positive school climate, developing physical fitness, building character, preventing bullying, enhancing student engagement and promoting and building student leadership skills. It is the connections between initiatives – along with the whole school’s involvement in the design and implementation of Unified Strategy® – that can foster a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all students.

## What is a Unified Champion® School?

Unified Champion Schools focus on three components: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole-School Engagement. A school may choose to participate in at least one of these categories; however, schools are encouraged to participate in all 3 components. A **Unified Champion School** will focus on a minimum of one activity from each of the components. If your school is interested in becoming a **nationally recognized Unified Champion Banner School**, please [visit this link](#) to learn more about the requirements or contact [swhitley@sone.org](mailto:swhitley@sone.org).

## How does my school become a Unified Champion® School?

By filling out the attached participation form, your school will be registered as a Unified Champion School for the 2019-2020 school year. As a Unified Champion School, your school will commit to providing Unified Programming and to having a Liaison who regularly reports activities back to Special Olympics Nebraska’s Youth and Schools Program Manager, submits Mid-Year and Year-End Report, and participate in a Year-End Survey from the University of Massachusetts. As a Unified Champion School, your school will receive frequent support from Special Olympics Nebraska staff. Staff is always willing to meet in person or via phone to discuss Unified programming ideas or assist in program implementation.

### Three components of Unified Strategy®

Unified Sports	Inclusive Youth Leadership	Whole-School Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSAA Unified Sports</li> <li>Inclusive Sport Opportunities</li> <li>Unified PE class</li> <li>Unified recreation/intramural opportunities</li> <li>Skill development</li> <li>Fellowship Games</li> <li>Culminating events</li> <li>Young Athletes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Council Partnership</li> <li>Unified clubs</li> <li>Lunch buddy clubs</li> <li>Cool School Plunges</li> <li>Unified Champion School Leadership Team</li> <li>Student Coaches</li> <li>Student Volunteers</li> <li>Youth Activation Committee</li> <li>Youth Summit</li> <li>Mentor Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GET INTO IT® service-learning curriculum,</li> <li>Unify or Respect Day</li> <li>Student-led assemblies</li> <li>SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD® activities</li> <li>Essays</li> <li>Newspaper editorial writing,</li> <li>Volunteering with Elementary School or Young Athletes programs on Unified Strategy® activities.</li> <li>Leadership roles in planning Special Olympics competitions or fitness activities</li> <li>Involve your school in Polar Plunge challenges</li> </ul>

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Nebraska



To help us in understanding how your school will touch on each of the three components of the Unified Strategy, please mark the Unified opportunities that your school plans to implement this year.

## UNIFIED SPORTS

- NSAA Unified Sports:** participation in Unified Bowling, Unified Track & Field, or Unified Cheer (NCA) by students with and without intellectual disabilities.
- Inclusive Sports Opportunities or other Unified Sports options:** Unified/Inclusive P.E., unified recreation, unified fitness, training, skills development, Fellowship Games, Unified Field Days, etc.
- Young Athletes Program:** sport and play program focused on developing motor and social skills for two to seven year olds.

## INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

- Students as event organizers:** Students organizing and planning Special Olympics events or activities
- Unified Clubs:** Students plan/carry out recreational activities for/with Special Olympics athletes at school or in the community
- Polar Plunge:** Youth helps to engage school participation in Special Olympics by “pledging and plunging” at the Polar Bear Plunge.
- Unified Champion School Leadership Team:** Students and faculty will create a leadership team that works to implement the three components of the Unified Strategy for Schools.
- Student Coaches:** The students serve as coaches for their peer athletes in preparing for Special Olympics competitions.
- Student Volunteers:** Students volunteering with Special Olympics Nebraska during competition and other events.
- Youth Activation Committee:** Participate in the Statewide YAC or create a committee within your school.
- Youth Summit:** Attend the free statewide Youth Summit during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Mentor Program:** Middle or High School students mentor Elementary students on Unified initiatives
- Other:** Please explain here \_\_\_\_\_

## WHOLE-SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

- Spread the Word to End the Word campaign:** organize campaigns encouraging respect, tolerance and acceptance for all.
- Fans in the Stands:** Students cheer as fans for Special Olympics athletes at school events or local competitions
- Get Into It™ :** Utilize free online lessons and resources endorsed by the Department of Education for use in general education classrooms that teaches about character education, respect, acceptance, power of words, etc.  
Learn more about Get Into It™ at: <https://getintoit.specialolympics.org/> or call 402-331-5545 for a free kit.
- Respect Rallies:** Students lead a school wide assembly to promote respect and acceptance in the hallways.
- Essays/Social Media:** Students write for school/local papers as well as take to social media to promote Unified culture and activities.
- Other:** Please explain here \_\_\_\_\_

## As a Unified Champion School, your school is eligible to receive the following resources

- Special Olympics Unified Strategy Toolkit: Supporting Schools and Communities of Inclusion
- Special Olympics – “Get Into It kit” (free service-learning curriculum for students in grades K-12)
- Special Olympics Young Athletes kit: curriculum, equipment, training
- Unified Physical Education Resource Manual
- High School, Middle School, and Elementary Level Playbooks that offer programming ideas
- Credit for materials for your R-word or respect campaign.
- Promotional video resources for school assemblies
- Opportunity to participate in a statewide Youth Activation Committee / Summit for no charge
- Inclusive Leadership Guide
- Guide to Unified Sports
- Frequent Staff Support

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Nebraska



School Information		
School Name:	School District:	New School? Y <input type="checkbox"/> or N <input type="checkbox"/>
Grade Level(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-School <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Middle <input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> College	Total School Enrollment:	
	Total Number of Students with IEP's:	
School Address:		
City/State/Zip:		
School Liaison:	Liaison Job Title:	
Phone: (     )	Email:	
School Administrator:	Administrator Job Title:	
Phone: (     )	Email:	
If your school plans to participate in NSAA Unified Sports or Special Olympics Unified Sports, please provide the sport, coach, and email below.		
Sport 1:	Head Coach:	Email:
Sport 2:	Head Coach:	Email:
Sport 3:	Head Coach:	Email:
Commitment and Certification		
<p>Special Olympics Nebraska's Unified Strategy for Schools is a proven and effective strategy for creating a school climate of inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all students, with and without intellectual disabilities. By signing this form, the school administrator and liaison certify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school will work to implement components listed on the previous page.</li> <li>• The school liaison will fill out Mid-Year and Year-End Participation Reports.</li> <li>• The school liaison will fill out a brief survey administered by University of Massachusetts at the end of the school year.</li> <li>• The school will seek approval for any Special Olympics branded materials: Shirts, posters, etc.</li> <li>• Special Olympics may use images, quotes, and videos from school events to promote the Unified Strategy for Schools.</li> </ul>		
Signature of School Liaison:		Date:
Signature of Administrator:		Date:

Please FAX pages 2 and 3 to the SONE office at 402-331-5964 or scan and email to Sean Whitley [swhitley@sone.org](mailto:swhitley@sone.org)