

WHY SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS®?



- **Provides meaningful and real sport experience.** Not all students in the building will make a varsity team. Unified Sports® makes it possible for more students to have an opportunity to participate in this meaningful activity.
- **Provides Social Inclusion,** which impacts the **entire school climate** in a positive way, promoting respect, acceptance and diversity. Students are valued for their unique talents and skills.
- **Helps reduce bullying** through empowerment, awareness and engagement.
- **Improves health and fitness,** especially for students with disabilities facing higher risks.

UNIFIED SPORTS[®] RESEARCH FINDINGS



Unified Sports[®]...

- Has a **positive impact** on all participants
 - 79% of Unified Partners reported talking to a student with ID during free time at school and 41% reported eating lunch with a student with ID.
- **Improves** understanding of people with intellectual disabilities
- **Complements social inclusion** within the school community
- Is significantly influenced by commitment and attitude of staff

"I like how they developed a friendship. And I noticed it after we came back from our first event and I saw kids interacting in the hallways either just saying hi or giving a high five. Normally, those kids wouldn't even talk to each other prior to participating with this unified team." Florida Coach