



74% of participating students said Project UNIFY was a positive turning point in their lives, that they became more patient, and that they learned to compromise. Two thirds of the students said they learned they have things in common with their peers with intellectual disabilities.

EDUCATE

Special Olympics Project UNIFY brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education, sports and youth leadership to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect and human dignity.

Special Olympics Project UNIFY® has involved 42 U.S. Special Olympics Programs and has engaged approximately 425,000 young people in over 2,025 schools nationwide.



Special Olympics

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Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education, through the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs, is a major funding source for Special Olympics Project UNIFY. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21.



Special Olympics Project UNIFY®

Building Schools & Communities of Inclusion

Special Olympics



Special Olympics Project UNIFY® is...

...a youth-centered, school-focused initiative that uses Special Olympics' sports and education programs to:

- activate youth
- engage educators
- promote school communities of acceptance and inclusion where all young people are agents of change

As a Special Olympics initiative, Project UNIFY incorporates many sports-related activities. But it is far more than a vehicle for sports events. It is the umbrella for a host of activities – national as well as grassroots – that benefit all students of all abilities, their schools and their communities.

Project UNIFY is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education.

Nearly all teacher liaisons and students who participated in Special Olympics Project UNIFY said that it was successful at their school and that they'd like to do it again.



Special Olympics Project UNIFY® works...

...by giving students with and without intellectual disabilities many ways to become involved:

Inclusive Sports

- Unified Sports®
- Unified Sports Recreation
- Young Athletes® (Early childhood motor development)
- Camp Shriver
- Games/tournaments
- Coaching & volunteering

Whole School Engagement

- Get Into It Lessons & Resources
- Spread the Word Campaign
- Social networking
- Fans in the Stands
- Youth Rallies

Youth Leadership & Advocacy

- Partners Clubs
- Youth Activation Committees
- Youth Summits & Forums
- Inclusive Leadership Programs

66% of teacher liaisons observed that Project UNIFY helps raise awareness and increases opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities to work together.

Special Olympics Project UNIFY® combines...

...three main components:

Inclusive Sports

This means two things in Project UNIFY. One, students with intellectual disabilities (ID) are given the opportunity to participate in sports. Two, students with and without ID participate in sports alongside each other - inclusively.

Youth Leadership & Advocacy

Project UNIFY does not merely allow young people to take leadership roles in promoting Project UNIFY in their schools and communities...it insists that they do so. For youth both with and without ID, those are leadership lessons that last a lifetime and youth are the pioneers of an inclusive movement.

Whole School Engagement

When an entire school accepts and includes students and others with ID, it is a powerful community of change. By giving all students (faculty and staff, too) opportunities to participate, Project UNIFY helps achieve that goal.



More than half of teacher liaisons observed that Project UNIFY increases opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to get involved in school activities.

