



Unified Champion Schools Award Banner Program

The *Champions Together in the Middle* partnership between IMLEA and Special Olympics Indiana provides “Unified Champion School” banners to middle/intermediate schools that have distinguished themselves through inclusive activities and meet the following requirements:

1. All school sponsored activities must be planned, organized and administered by an **“Inclusive Student Leadership”** team that strives to do things **WITH** students with intellectual disabilities **NOT FOR** them.
2. The school must participate in at least one activity designed around **“Whole School Engagement”** that promotes and encourages awareness, respect and inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities and/or a school wide fundraiser for Special Olympics Indiana.
3. The school must organize and participate in at least one **Unified Sports®** activity such as Unified Track and Field, a Unified fitness club, Unified Physical Education, or a Unified competition with students with intellectual disabilities OR local Special Olympics athletes.
4. **Fundraising** -- The school must raise a minimum of \$750 for Special Olympics Indiana to assist in maintaining and expanding the activities of Champions Together in the Middle.



For more information contact:

Tori Cox

Manager of Champions
Together in the Middle
tcov@soindiana.org

317-328-2020

Mike Hasch

Director of UCS Programs
mhasch@soindiana.org

317-328-2005

2018-2019 Champions Together in the Middle Banner Winners:

Brownsburg West, Lowell, Mt. Vernon, Rochester, Shelbyville, South Ripley, Boston, Brownsburg East, and Tri-West.

UNIFIED SPORTS BASICS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SPORTS® combines students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Special Olympics Indiana (SOIN) is considered a world leader in the development of these programs having conducted the first-ever pilot test of Unified Sports® in 1989 and it has since instituted competitions in virtually every sport.

- Teams consist of an approximately equal number of students with intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Athletes) and students without intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Partners).
- These distinctions will be for entry purposes only. There will be no identifiable distinction between participants in practice or competition.
- Teams are co-ed.



Definition of Unified Sports® Participants:

- Unified Student Athlete: A school may identify a student as a Unified Student Athlete if the student is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual education program based on a cognitive, developmental and/or intellectual disability.
- Unified Student Partner: A Unified Student Partner is a student that meets the eligibility criteria required by the school for student participation on any athletic team.
- Coaches of SOIN sponsored sports must be adults designated by the principal.

Unified P.E. allows students with and without intellectual disabilities to work together during ongoing educational and physical activities. Unified PE can be structured around the national physical education standards and will work to have students develop leadership skills for all students. Unified PE serves as a gateway for continuous participation in additional Special Olympics games, events, and teams. Special Olympics North America also has created an extensive guide to help you start up a Unified P.E. program at your school so you will have all the resources you need!

Unified Fitness Clubs provide students with an opportunity to participate in exercise year round in an all-inclusive club. Unified Fitness Clubs are formed using the Unified Sports® model by including students with and without disabilities. While walking is the most common activity, clubs are encouraged to expand the range of activities based on their community resources and interests of group members. Clubs earn points by tracking activity data on their fitness bands, provided by Special Olympics Indiana, to earn incentives.





Champions Together In the Middle School Assembly

Changing School Cultures for the Better



The **Champions Together School Assembly** is a unique, timely and engaging program that is being brought to middle schools throughout the state courtesy of Special Olympics Indiana through Champions Together in the Middle.



The **Inclusion Revolution** will change the culture of your school by promoting **awareness, acceptance, respect, anti-bullying and inclusion** of all persons with intellectual disabilities—including the students with special needs that are in your building. How would the students in your school currently answer the simple question that is asked by those who feel ignored and left out? **"Can I play too?"**

Craig Tornquist, a professional comedian who has delivered more than 3,000 performances in schools across America, will act as emcee. Craig will interact with students from the audience while issuing the challenge to become involved in **servant leadership** and **inclusion** as a way of giving back to their schools and communities—**all with a smile!**



In the end, the uplifting message is that **servant leadership changes lives for the better**. And every *student* CAN make a positive difference.

YOU can make a difference by bringing this assembly to your school. A limited number of FREE assemblies are still available. Sign up now!

To learn more about **assemblies** or schedule a date contact:

Craig Tornquist

tornquistcraig@gmail.com

(574) 360-0853

Scheduling now for 2019-2020!



Regional Trainings

*The first step to starting **Champions Together in the Middle** at YOUR school*

Regional trainings are hosted at our top *Champions Together in the Middle* schools. The purpose of Regional Trainings is to help you learn from our model schools and to help answer questions you might have about starting your own program. After attending the regional training session, you should be well on your way to starting the Champions Together in the Middle program at your school. All training sessions are FREE to everyone in attendance.

WHAT: Two hours of engaging conversation with all students and faculty. Many training sessions will be led by the host school's inclusive leadership team and facility supporters.

WHO: We ask that you bring with you the following individuals

- 5 to 10 students who WANT to be a part of this. The ideal students have passion, a good heart, and a desire to make a difference. The students do NOT have to be good at sports or athletic to participate!
- The individual in charge of the club. This person will serve as the point of contact between the school program and Special Olympics Indiana.
- A special education teacher, principal/vice principal, athletic director, or any other faculty that wants to be involved.

WHEN: Trainings will be from about 9:30AM-11:30AM throughout the months of October and November.

WHERE: All trainings will be hosted at our current banner recipient schools. There will be trainings throughout Indiana so you can come to the one closest to you!

To find your closest regional training or to find out more about Champions Together in the Middle, contact:

Tori Cox
tcox@soindiana.org
317-328-2020