



OVERVIEW

- Special Olympics Project UNIFY is an education-based project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education that uses the sports and education programs of Special Olympics to activate young people across the U.S in order to promote school communities where all young people are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics believes that through sports young people can make a difference in friendships, schools and communities.
- 53 schools across Michigan participate



PROJECT UNIFY KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- Youth Leadership
- School/Community Collaborations
- Continuous Improvement
- Communications
- Professional Development
- Unifying Programming
- Creating Sustaining Relationships



CORE ACTIVITIES

Communication and Engagement: Be a Fan and Spread the word to end the word “R” word campaigns, social networking and monthly updates

Inclusive Schools: Get Into It™, Partners Clubs, School Enrichment, Youth Summits, Young Athletes™

Inclusive Schools: Unified Sports® including Poly hockey, basketball, bocce, bowling and athletics or Unified Recreational Sports activity such as walking or exercise club or dodge ball leagues

Athlete Leadership & Self-Advocacy: Athlete Leadership Programs, Training and Education, Youth Forums



PROJECT UNIFY OUTCOMES

- The magic of Project UNIFY is manifested in the inclusive friendships formed, seeing paired youth in action as leaders, creating communities of caring and respect.
- Youth become core leaders in their school communities using Unified Sports and Spread the Word to End the Word as the catalyst for impacting change in a school climate.
- Administrators and teachers take the educated risk to support the vision and insight of youth to create inclusive environments in their schools through Unified Sports and youth leadership opportunities with a clear vision of impacting school environments.
- The inspiration and passion that comes from experiencing Special Olympics sports motivates young people to seek a world of unity, and then provides students with and without disabilities with the skills and opportunities to create social change.
- Policymakers and education leaders develop policies and support quality practices to encourage positive school climates with safe and nurturing learning environments for all students.

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