



The Benefits of Being a Unified Champion School

Imagine a school where **no** student is excluded, **no** student is bullied, **everyone** is welcomed and a **positive culture** is created based on individual strengths and respect for diversity.

Fourteen years ago, Dover High School got involved in Special Olympics New Hampshire's Unified Champion Schools® program, and they have never looked back. MJ Hipper, long-time DHS teacher reflected, "It has been amazing to see how being a Unified Champion School® has changed the culture of not only DHS but also our community. Our culture has become a more accepting and caring environment for everyone."

WHAT A UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL® LOOKS LIKE

The look of a Unified Champion School® can vary based on needs, goals, schedules and other unique factors. However, the program remains the same and includes a combination of four components: fun-filled sports, youth leadership and advocacy, school-wide activities and sustainability.

This is a year-round program that consists of seasonal activities. Students learn and enjoy new ways to interact with one another and work together to conduct school-wide campaigns. Daily activities foster inclusion, acceptance and respect for one another while having FUN. The result is that the school, the student body and the community are positively impacted.

FURTHER IMPACT

It is through the youth that the culture in their schools and communities are changing.

- 97% of high school seniors said that these activities have changed their school for the better.
- 86% of the school staff felt the program made a big impact in reducing bullying and teasing in their schools.
- 84% of students generally regarded participation in the program as a positive turning point in their lives.
 - They became more patient and learned to compromise.
 - They felt comfortable sitting with, talking with and working on a school project with a student who has an intellectual disability (ID).
 - Participating in Unified Sports® provided opportunities for students to know peers with ID which in turn led to friendships (94% of high school students).

Be a part of changing the culture in YOUR school ... where everyone is accepted and recognized for their value and skills!

- Let us know your interest in becoming a Unified Champion School®.
- You will be connected with a Unified Champion Schools® Liaison who will assist you in completing your Unified Champion Schools® Application and continue to support your efforts.

Contact us today and be well on your way to engage students, have FUN and begin to change the culture in YOUR school!