



Unified Update - August 2026

Welcome to the UCS Unified Update!

Your monthly dose of Unified Champion Schools news, resources, ideas, and important reminders is here!

☀️ Each month, we'll share tools and opportunities to help make your school year more inclusive, connected, and fun for everyone. ❤️

Let's make this a great year of inclusion, one month at a time! 🙌

Unified Sports

🏈 NHIAA Unified Soccer Is Almost Here!

The season is right around the corner! Get ready to kick things off with our Coaches Rules Review.

Tuesday, September 8
🕒 6:00–7:00 PM

Player Development & Recreational Levels

All coaches should plan to attend!

[Join the Teams Call](#)
Let's get ready for a great Unified Soccer season! 🙌🏈

Youth Leadership

☀️ Help Build Youth Leaders In Your School!

Teachers and advisors play a key role in helping students find their voice and lead inclusion!

Encourage: Help students identify ways to promote inclusion.

Engage: Create opportunities to involve the whole school through activities, campaigns, and events.

Empower: Give students meaningful roles in Unified Sports and other activities.

Support: Guide and encourage students while giving them space to lead.

Your support + their leadership = a more inclusive school! ☀️



Monthly School Challenge

Open the Door to Inclusion!

Get creative and show us what inclusion means to your school! 🎨❤️

This September, Unified teams, clubs, and classrooms are invited to decorate ANY door—at school, home, a local business, or in your community—to celebrate acceptance, belonging, friendship, and unity.

Sept. 14–20: Decorate your door

Sept. 25: Submit your photo

Oct. 5: Winners announced!

☀️ **Bonus:** Turn it into a Whole School Engagement activity by getting other classes, clubs, or groups involved!

Gather your team, get creative, and Open the Door to Inclusion! 🏠❤️



Coaches Corner

Set the Tone from the First Practice

As the season begins, you set the tone! Create a team environment where every athlete and partner feels valued, included, and essential to success.

Everyone has a role: Every athlete and partner contributes meaningfully.

Everyone is equal: Provide similar opportunities and status, regardless of ability.

Players are teammates, not coaches: Coaching, instruction, and feedback come from the coach.

Make fitness part of every practice: Build healthy, active habits together.

☀️ Mentor, don't coach: Higher-ability teammates should encourage, support, and include—not direct or coach—their teammates.

A non-playing adult coach is always present: Athletes can lead and mentor, but the coach provides instruction, supervision, and support.

Start strong. Build an inclusive team culture from Day One!