

## Road Map for Project UNIFY

Schools participating in Project UNIFY are required to fulfill a number of tasks throughout their project time frame. The requirements are listed below and are specific to Elementary Schools and Middle/High schools.

### Elementary Schools should:

1. Begin a Young Athletes Program, a Unified Sports® program or a traditional Special Olympics sports program that must include Unified Experiences. A general education class or student volunteers must be included in practices or training sessions and can serve as peer coaches, additional volunteers, unified partners, or “buddies”.
2. Teach at least one lesson from the Special Olympics ‘Get Into It’ curriculum to the general education class. Each of the four lessons can be downloaded, free of charge, through the Special Olympics website.
3. Implement at least one school-wide activity that promotes Be a Fan and/or End the R-Word campaigns.
4. Meet with Special Olympics staff for face-to-face meetings to discuss your specific Project UNIFY program.
5. Submit a monthly log. These “reports” will give Special Olympics staff a better look into your program and the activities you’ve done throughout the month. This will be a very simple requirement and helps SOCO keep track of what is going on within your school.
6. Organize some sort of culminating activity. This activity can be classroom-based, school-based or include multiple schools in your district/area. The activity could be a competition or could be your school-wide activity.
7. Finally, you may be asked to complete an online survey, provided by the University of Massachusetts, towards the end of the school year which serves as an evaluation of the grant project. This survey will be completed by all schools, across the country to gather statistics and results for nationwide Project UNIFY movements.
8. Other suggestions that are encouraged from every school involved in Project UNIFY are:
  - a. Participation in the Project UNIFY Essay Contest. Student volunteers and Special Olympics athletes may submit short essays by the designated deadline (usually mid-Spring) telling of their experiences of participation in Project UNIFY. Winners from Elementary, Middle, and High School levels will receive a cash prize.
  - b. Participation in the State House Rally for Project UNIFY. All schools will be invited to attend this youth-driven event (end of March) to promote Be a Fan and End the R-Word campaigns.
  - c. Sharing of photos, videos, and stories of their activities and events using web-based resources, such as the Special Olympics Fan Community Site.
  - d. Development of a School Coordinating Team which will be comprised of at least one special education teacher, one general education teacher, one athlete, and one partner with some involvement from a school administrator. These Teams will work together and come up with ideas for the grant project and how they can impact their school climate.
  - e. Creation of a Fan Club at your school. These clubs will be comprised of students that want to help in the activities being promoted through your Project UNIFY program and promote the program through special projects or activities.