

Road Map for Project UNIFY®

Elementary Schools should:

1. Appoint a school based liaison to work with Special Olympics Colorado Staff.
2. Begin a Unified Sports Option including Red Shirt Rookies, a Unified Sports® program, or a traditional Special Olympics sports program that must include Unified Experiences. A general education class or student volunteers should be included in practices or training sessions and can serve as peer coaches, additional volunteers, unified partners, or “buddies”. Examples Include but are not limited to:
 - a. Unified Sports® Team that practices and competes
 - b. Red Shirt Rookies before/after school program
 - c. Unified Recreation, Unified Gym Class, Unified Field Day, Unified Clinic
3. Teach at least one lesson from the Special Olympics ‘Get Into It’ service learning guide to a general education class. Each of the four lessons can be downloaded, free of charge, through the Special Olympics website. You may also teach a lesson from the GIIT Active or the Movies that Move DVD.
4. Implement at least one school-wide activity that promotes End the R-Word campaigns.
5. Meet with Special Olympics Colorado staff for face-to-face meetings to discuss your specific Project UNIFY program.
6. Submit a monthly Unified update to SOCO. These “reports” will give Special Olympics Colorado 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.
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. Sharing of photos, videos, and stories of their activities and events using web-based resources, such as the Special Olympics Fan Community Site.
 - b. Development of a School Coordinating Team/Leadership Team 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.

c. Creation of a Fan Club/Partners Club at your school. These clubs will be comprised of students and athletes that want to help in the activities being promoted through your Project UNIFY program and promote the program through special projects or activities. Partners Clubs are an ideal group to take on the duties of an R-Word Campaign.

Middle and High Schools should:

1. Begin a Unified Sports Option. This is a Unified program or Special Olympics sports program that must include Unified experiences. A general education class or group of student volunteers should be included in any practices or training sessions that are being held and can serve as unified partner and/or peer coaches. (Unified Sports Team, Unified Player Development, Unified Recreation)

2. You are required to teach or incorporate at least one lesson from the Special Olympics 'Get Into It' curriculum to a general education class. Each of the four lessons can be downloaded, free of charge, through the Special Olympics website. You may also teach a lesson from the GIIT Active or the Movies that Move DVD.

3. You must implement at least one school-wide activity that promotes Be a fan and/or R-Word campaign.

4. Meet with Special Olympics staff for face to face meetings to discuss your specific Project UNIFY Program.

5. Submit a monthly unified update to SOCO. These "reports" will give Special Olympics staff a better look into your program and what activities you've participated in through the previous month. This will be a very simple requirement and is just a few sentence update on any inclusive initiatives taking place at your school.

6. Your school should also attempt to create and implement a Fan Club/Partners Club for Project UNIFY. These clubs will be comprised of students and athletes that want to help in the activities being promoted through your Project UNIFY program.

7. 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. Finally, you will 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 the nationwide Project UNIFY movement.

8. Other suggestions that are encouraged from every school involved in Project UNIFY are:

- a. Participation in the Project UNIFY Youth Leadership Summit and/or Global Messenger Training.
- b. Sharing of photos, videos, and stories of their activities and event using web-based resources, such as the Special Olympics Fan Community site or SOCO Project UNIFY Facebook Page.
- c. SOCO also hosts a core of activities and fundraisers including the Polar Plunge that could be fun for schools to attend as a group.

Below you will find a list of different Initiatives Project UNIFY Schools can take part in:

- Unified Sports Options
- R-Word Campaigns
- Youth Leadership Summits
- Fans in the Stands
- Partners Clubs