

Project UNIFY - Overview

Special Olympics Project UNIFY is a U.S. national project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education with the goal to activate youth around the country in an effort to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics. After a successful launch, Project UNIFY will begin its second year of activities in the fall of 2009.

Special Olympics Project UNIFY is a strategy for engaging schools to use the tools and sports programs of Special Olympics to create school climates of inclusion, acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students with and without intellectual disabilities.

Project UNIFY initiatives include a host of core activities, both on the national and the grass-roots level. In 2008 Special Olympics Vermont engaged schools throughout the state, by increasing funding and support for Unified Sports.

There are now 25 schools participating in School Unified Sports and in 2008/2009 participation increased 69%. As we move into 2009/2010 school year we look forward to engaging more schools and more students in the life changing experience of Unified Sports.



Core Activities for Project Unify Nationally

Communications & Engagement

- É Be a Fan ó òR Wordö Ô
- É Social Networking Ô
- É Sports Experience Ô
- É Fans in the Stands Ô

Inclusive Schools

- É SOGII ó Essay Contests
- É Partners Clubs Ô
- É School Enrichment Ô
- É Youth Summits

Early Childhood Enrichment

- É Young Athletes Ô

Inclusive Sports

- É Unified Sports Ô
- É Camp Shriver

Athlete Leadership & Self-Advocacy

- É Athlete Leadership Programs Ô
- É Training and Education Ô
- É Youth Forums Ô
- É Global Youth Congress Ô

Traditional Sports

- É Games/Tournaments Ô
- É Coaching Ô
- É Volunteers Ô

Ô Vermont activities Ô

Project UNIFY Expected Results

- Special Olympics activities and opportunities to participate for young people of all ages and all ability levels increase in schools across the country.
- Students with intellectual disabilities become part of the core fabric of the education community and are perceived as assets in their school and community.
- Students without intellectual disabilities increase their knowledge, skills and comfort in forming positive social relationships with students with intellectual disabilities and come together to address societal issues.
- Policymakers and education leaders develop policies and support quality practices to encourage positive school climates with safe and nurturing learning environments for all students.



2009 REGISTRATION FORM

Name
Address
Local Program
Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work
E-Mail
How do you prefer to receive SOVT communications? <input type="checkbox"/> Regular mail <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail
The \$20.00 registration fee includes materials and lunch.
METHOD OF PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Check (Enclose) <input type="checkbox"/> Bill my Local Program
Return to: ddiaz@vtso.org Or mail to: Special Olympics Vermont, 368 Avenue D, Suite 30, Williston, VT 05495

2009 Registration Deadline

September 11th

Receive a 10% discount before August 24th



Special Olympics

Vermont

Be a fan™

Friday – September 25th

8:00am Registration

8:30am Key Note

Melanie Ferlito/Andrea Cahn-Directors of Youth Education and Unified Sports, Project UNIFY

Round Table ó Best practices from Schools involved in Unified Sports®

Unified Sports® Certification

(10am ó 5pm with lunch)

This course immerses coaches into the philosophy and facilitation of a quality Unified Sports® Program. This course will discuss coaches' responsibilities, recruiting appropriate partners, planning for and facilitating quality practice sessions and competitive events, as well as how Unified Sports® integrates with the mission of Special Olympics.

This certification includes a Practical Session with Fundamental Skill Assessment and Development working with Athletes and Partners with a sport clinician.

Unified Sports® are Endorsed by:

The Vermont Principals Association

Vermont Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Also Aligns with the NASPE Standards and the Vermont State Standards in Physical Education



Special Olympics

Vermont

Be a fan™

Project Unify Conference and Unified Sports® Certification



September 25, 2009

***Vermont Police Academy
Pittsford, Vermont***

Take U.S. Route 7 to Pittsford. Turn East onto Furnace Road. Take the first left onto Academy Road. Follow signs to the student parking lot