



December Newsletter

What is Whole School Engagement?

Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach the majority of the school population. All students have opportunities to participate through team or school-wide activities, and students with and without intellectual disabilities are involved with planning and leading awareness events with the support of an adult.



Examples:

- Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports teams
- Inclusive Pep Rallies
- Spread the Word>> Inclusion Campaigns
- Unified Sports Day/ Inclusion Revolution

[Discussion Guide for Video](#)

Highlights from Missouri Schools



[Inclusive Youth Leadership Summit](#)

Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) was so excited to host Seckman High School, Webb City Junior High School, Camdenton High School and California High School. The theme of the day was Inclusion is our Superpower!

Throughout the day, students with and without disabilities participated in several team activities. They also had the opportunity to get free health screenings through our Healthy Athletes program. [Come join us](#) when this event occurs again on March 28, 2024!



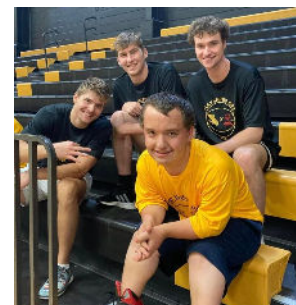
Students across the state have participated in bowling competitions this month. Bowling is a very popular sport for schools to play Unified!

Your school can participate in a Special Olympics Missouri Competition or we can support you in hosting your own by providing medals or support funds for schools who are implementing the UCS strategy.



Missouri Western State University hosted their third annual Play Unified Day with basketball skills, drills, and scrimages. Other student athletes came to be fans in the stands and cheer on SOMO athletes! Your school could replicate this event by having Varsity and JV athletes host a clinic for students with and without intellectual disabilities at your campus or across your district.

[Read more](#)



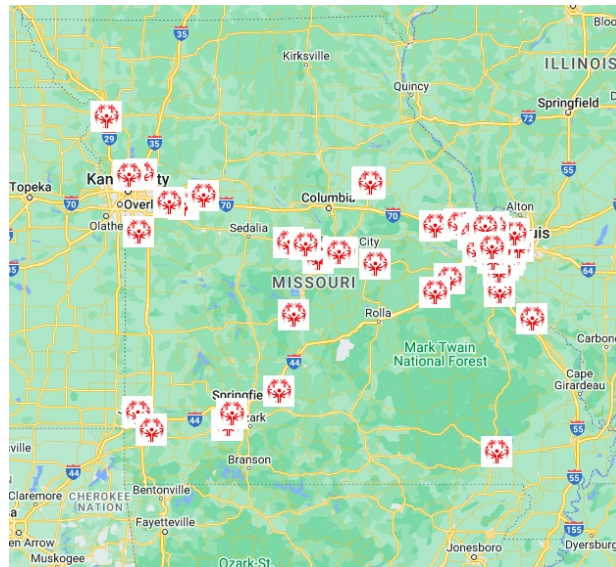
Resources and Ideas for your School

[Please Click Here to Take the 2023-2024 Midterm Survey](#)

This survey is to report on Unified and inclusive events that have happened on your campus so far this school year. Please complete the short survey by January 15th for SOMO to review implementation of the UCS strategy in Missouri, recognize your school for your inclusive efforts, and connect you with resources that match your goals and student interests. Thank you!

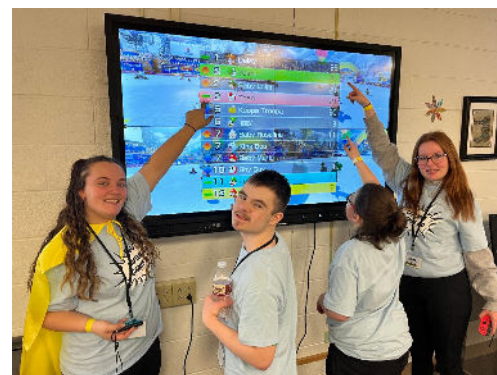
Is your school an official Unified Champion School?

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about joining the Unified Movement and implementing the Unified Champion School strategy, **let's connect!** Implementing the UCS strategy creates opportunities on an ongoing basis for students with and without intellectual disabilities to build relationships, which results in an inclusive school culture.



[NFHS Offers Free Virtual Coaching Unified Sports Course](#)

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that unites Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates for training and competition. This course will help you understand and implement Special Olympics Unified Sports in your school.



Unified Esports

Do your students love Mario Kart 8 and Rocket League? Join the free Play Vs. Unified league to get your students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities competing together.

Spring 2024 registration is open now until February 19th.

Need help with equipment? Missouri Schools implementing all three components of the UCS strategy can utilize \$200 in support funds for this or

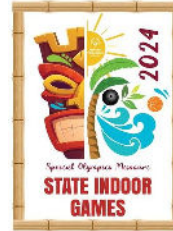
other inclusive endeavors on their campus.

[Link to More Info](#)

Click Here for Upcoming Events In Your Area

- Special Olympics Missouri models inclusive events at our Training for Life Campus for your students to enjoy and take back ideas to inspire you to host inclusive events at your school. Come join us or ask us to support you in hosting your own event!
 - [Unified Champion Schools Holiday Party](#) Wednesday, December 13th 9am-1pm or Friday, December 15th 9:30am-1:30pm
 - [Unified Basketball Tournament](#) February 8th or 15th 9:30-1:30 (register by 1/24)
 - [Spring Inclusive Youth Leadership Summit](#) Thursday, March 28th 9:30-1:30

- Contact your [Area Program Director](#) now to plan ahead for basketball season. Special Olympics Missouri will host Area basketball competitions beginning in December, Regional competitions in February, and State Indoor Games in St. Charles, MO in March 2024.



- We're looking for schools to partner with us to host **Unified Track and Field** meets this spring as we work towards emerging sport status with **Missouri State High School Activities Association**. These competitions are different from a traditional SOMO Track Meet because they are more competitive and athletes and Unified partners compete to earn team points instead of individual awards. If you'd like to learn more email ucs@somo.org. Support our efforts by advocating to your Athletic Director to acknowledge your Unified Sports team similarly to other teams. This might include equitable opportunities for athletic letters, pep assemblies, uniforms, equipment, transportation and practice space.



Visit Our Website to Learn How to Become a Unified Champion School

Visit Generation Unified for Free Lessons and Videos



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Questions? Want to share inclusive ideas from your school? Contact us at ucs@somo.org.