



2022-23 Unified Champion Schools Memorandum of Understanding

Special Olympics Pennsylvania and Baldwin High School

This Memorandum of Understanding summarizes the partnership between Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and Baldwin High School for the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program designed to lead to more inclusive and accepting school environments. The three components are Interscholastic Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

These programs will be offered in Baldwin High School, and the length of the agreement is from the date of the signing of this MOU through June 30, 2023.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

During the 2022-23 school year, Special Olympics Pennsylvania will provide funding support, technical guidance through dedicated staff, and resources to Baldwin High School. These will support the Unified Champion Schools program which consists of Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce, Recreation Unified Indoor Bocce, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement activities.

- Expenditures covered include:
 - Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce coach stipend of \$1,000 payable to the school district to be distributed among one or more coaches
 - Up to three Unified Indoor Bocce replacement competition polo shirts and (if needed) one coach's shirt with the high school's name and colors to supplement the current inventory. The school is responsible for the secure storage of the bocce court, equipment, and all uniforms for use in future years, and agrees to replace any missing equipment or uniforms.
 - Training and resource materials on youth leadership, whole school engagement activities, and Unified Sports
 - Spread the Word Inclusion awareness campaign promotional materials and supplies
 - If the school's Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce team advances to the State Championships, all housing, meals, and onsite costs are paid by SOPA. (The school is responsible for providing bus transportation.)
- SOPA will provide technical guidance and resource support to ensure the successful implementation of the Unified Champion Schools program components. These include:
 - Unified Sports® training course conducted for coaches and other interested personnel, including resource guides and access to free online materials.
 - SOPA staff member assigned to your high school to serve as a dedicated liaison for Unified Sports coaches, faculty advisors, and youth leaders.
 - How to conduct a minimum of three whole school engagement activities during the year aimed at promoting inclusion, raising awareness, and improving overall school climate. This includes materials and guidance on conducting a student-driven respect and awareness campaign entitled "Spread the Word Inclusion." SOPA staff support also will be offered to students and faculty advisors when needed.
 - Strategies and resources for the inclusive youth leadership Unified Club.
 - Access to extensive online videos, instructional materials, and best practices from schools around the country and in Pennsylvania.

Baldwin High School

Baldwin High School agrees to the following in support of the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program:

- Abide by the requirements outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding and any applicable Special Olympics Pennsylvania policies, sports rules, and program deadlines
- Ensure school's teacher/chaperone to student ratio policies are adhered to at all times. If the school decides to participate in an overnight travel event, there is a required 4:1 student to chaperone ratio. Additionally, any overnight events will follow SOPA's Housing Policy governing room assignments (available at www.specialolympicspa.org).
- Ensure background checks are completed for all coaches and volunteers in accordance with Pennsylvania's state legal requirements. School will provide a copy of its background check policy to SOPA if requested. The head Unified Indoor Bocce coach is hired by October 1.
- **Interscholastic Unified Sports:** Have a high school Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce team which has a proportional number of Special Olympics-eligible athletes (defined as students with an intellectual disability, cognitive delay, or developmental disability including different types of autism) and students without an intellectual disability. Only students enrolled in the 9th-12th grades are eligible, including any up to the age of 21 receiving services from the school district.
 - The team practices after school a minimum of twice a week for 10-11 weeks. First practices begin the week of November 21 and the regular season ends the first week of March (depending on the date of the regional championships). This aligns with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association winter sports season.
 - Additionally, the high school's Interscholastic Unified Indoor Bocce team participates in a minimum of four competitions which include a culminating county or regional championship event. The school district is responsible for providing transportation for the competitions.
 - Coaches are required to complete the free Special Olympics Unified Sports online course and attend the Unified Indoor Bocce in-person training. They also agree to fulfill the responsibilities in the SOPA coach's job description.
- **Inclusive Youth Leadership:** There is a structured inclusive youth leadership club led by students with and without intellectual disabilities. It may be a new Unified Club or an existing group. This club meets at least once or twice per month and organizes activities to improve school climate, and promote acceptance and respect. Additionally, four students and a teacher attend a five hour Youth Summit conducted by SOPA on a school day to learn about inclusive leadership.
- **Whole School Engagement:** Have a minimum of three whole school engagement activities which are organized by students and focus on inclusion, respect, and improved school climate. Technical support will be provided by SOPA staff, as well as funding resources for materials as defined in the previous section.
- Ensure success through the involvement and support of the high school's principal, athletic director, special education director, teachers, and staff for the UCS program.
- Complete and submit mid-term and year-end reporting requirements for a United States Department of Education Unified Champion Schools grant that provides partial funding support.



8/17/22

Matt Aaron
President and CEO
Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Date

Signature

Date

Name: _____

Title: _____

For Baldwin High School