

# 2025-26 SONJ UCS Funding Application

We are excited to once again provide the opportunity for eligible New Jersey schools to apply for funding to support Unified initiatives for the 2025-26 school year.

Please be sure to visit our Application Dashboard prior to completing this application.

**Please submit a separate form for each school.**

**Self-sustaining schools - please indicate your self-funded status where requested. You will be offered an abridged application.**

Email \*

dschraer@twpunionschools.org

**Name of person completing application \***

Diana Schraer

**I am completing this application with the knowledge and consent of relevant administrators within my school and/or district.**

\*

☒ Agreed

## Application Password

*This was distributed during the required May webinars and is included in the application guide, both of which are available on the application dashboard.*

EKS

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## School Name \*

(please enter your entire school name, i.e. Ramsey High School, not RHS):

Burnet Middle School

.....

## School District \*

(please enter your entire district name, i.e. West Milford Township Public Schools, not WMTPS or West Milford):

Township of Union

.....

5

## School Mailing Address \*

1000 Caldwell Ave Union NJ

.....

## School Zip Code: \*

07083

.....

**Grades at your school: \***

- ☐ Pre-K
- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☒ 6
- ☒ 7
- ☒ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12
- ☐ Beyond grade 12

**How many students are enrolled in your school? \***

1100

**School NCES Number**

\*

You can search here: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>

341650005744

**How many years has your school received UCS funding? \***

- ☐ This is our first year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 4-5 years
- ☐ 6-7 years
- ☒ More than 7 years
- ☐ I don't know. Less than 5 years, I think.
- ☐ I don't know. 5 years or more, I think.
- ☐ We have been self-funded for some time.

**Principal Name \***

Ben Kloc

**Principal Email Address \***

bkloc@twpunionschools.org

**Superintendent Name \***

Gerald Benaquista

**Superintendent Email Address \***

gbenaquista@twpunionschool.org

**Business Administrator Name \***

Yolanda Koon

**Business Administrator Email Address \***

ykoon@twpunionschools.org

Each

Unified Champion School is required to have a school leadership team in place. The SLT is, at minimum, composed of two student leaders (one with and one without an intellectual disability), two staff liaisons, and a school administrator, all of whom are dedicated to supporting UCS activities and creating a culture of inclusion.

## Primary School Liaison Name

This is the person who will receive the majority of the communication from the UCS team and will be held accountable for completion of monthly reports and other required submissions.

Diana Schraer

## School Liaison Email

dschraer@twpunionschools.org

## School Liaison's Role within School \*

- ☒ Teacher
- ☐ Social Worker/Case Managaer
- ☐ Director of Special Services or equivalent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Co-Liaison Name \*

Andrea Korb

akorb@twpunionschools.org



Other: vice principal

Ben Kloc

bklock@twpunionschools.org

**School Administrator Role Within School \***

- ☒ Principal
- ☐ Director of Special Services (or equivalent)
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Business Administrator
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Superintendent
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**The UCS Grant requires that at least two student leaders serve on your school's leadership team. \***

☒ I understand.

**If there are individuals on your School Leadership Team that are not listed above, \* please provide their name(s), email address(es), and role(s) within the school here.**

Daniel Kwashie Aidan Thampi

Special

Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a three-component model that combines Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement to create climates of acceptance and inclusion.



**In order to receive financial support from Special Olympics New Jersey, my school commits to satisfactorily implement the three components of UCS.**

\*

☒ Agreed

**Does your Unified Sports team and/or Unified Club have their own social media account(s)? If so, please share your platforms and handles.**

\*

No, just township of union facebook page

**How will your school promote your Unified activities, events, and opportunities to your students, faculty, and community members?**

\*

- ☒ Unified Sports listed on school website
- ☒ Unified Club listed on school website
- ☒ Social media posts about Unified Sports
- ☒ Social media posts about Unified Club
- ☒ Morning announcements will mention Unified
- ☒ Unified will be mentioned in school newspaper
- ☒ Unified will be included in school yearbook
- ☒ Unified will be recognized at school rallies
- ☐ Unified will be included in emails to parents/guardians/etc
- ☒ Bulletin Boards
- ☒ Newsletters



Other:

Students with and without intellectual disabilities train and play together on the same team or in the same class in approximately equal numbers.

**What Unified Sports opportunities will your students be involved in? Choose all that apply.** \*

- ☒ Interscholastic Sports Team(s) - playing against other schools
- ☒ Intramural Sports Team(s) - playing recreationally with no competitions
- ☐ Unified PE - offered during at least 1 grading period
- ☒ Field Day or Game Day
- ☒ eSports
- ☐ Fitness activities or demonstrations
- ☐ Unified Recess (Elementary School only)
- ☐ Young Athletes (Grades K-2 only; do not select for grade levels above 2)
- ☐ Developmental Sports (grades 3-5 or 3-6)

**If offering interscholastic sports (competing against other schools), what sports does your school plan to offer (Middle and High School only)? \***



Soccer



Bowling



Basketball



Track and Field



Kickball



Flag Football



Tennis



Not offering interscholastic sports



Other: .....

**For each Unified Sport you plan to offer, please describe your school's Unified Sports plan for implementation.**

**How often will you practice/meet?**

**How many competitions do you plan to have?**

**How will you recruit participants?**

Every Monday after school starting in November (bowling 1) open to other schools  
e-sports Every Thursday after school starting in Nov/Dec running until April (weekly once Mario Kart starts)  
Our club is very large it meets 1x a month after school and wednesdays weekly during all lunches. We  
practice 1x a week after school for intramural / unified practices.

Young people of all abilities are given training and opportunities to be leaders in their schools

and communities.

**What Inclusive Youth Leadership opportunities will your students be involved in? Please choose all that apply.**

\*



Unified Club



Inclusive School Leadership Clubs (Student Council, National Honor Society, etc.)



Young Athletes (Grades K-2)



Other: .....

**Please describe your school's Inclusive Youth Leadership plan.**

\*

**How often will your club meet?**

**What activities will your club do?**

**How will students with and without intellectual disabilities make decisions, advocate for themselves, and provide awareness and advocacy for all students?**

Club meets 1x a month after school.

Wednesdays during all lunches. (Buddy Lunch)

We plan Respect Weeks & help UHS with Leadership Conference.

We plan Holiday Parties.

We help with after school dances.

We help to create a week long disabilities awareness day and plan an end of year field day with 5 TWP schools.

.....

Activities that foster understanding and respect for all and positively impact school climate by including all students, teachers, staff, and administrators; they are planned and executed by students with and without disabilities.

## What Whole School Engagement opportunities will your students be involved in? \*

- ☒ Awareness campaigns such as Spread the Word, Choose to Include, World Down Syndrome Day, or Autism Acceptance
- ☐ Respect Campaign/Rally
- ☐ Fans in the Stands; a coordinated effort to have students and community members attend every Unified game
- ☐ Hosting a Unified Sports competition / game / event during the school day; most of the student body attends
- ☒ Fundraising event or campaign for your school's Unified activities
- ☒ Fundraising event or campaign for SONJ
- ☒ Unified Sports teams will be introduced and recognized at school assemblies and/or pep rallies
- ☒ School or district social media features Unified Sports or Unified Clubs
- ☐ Unified has its own social media account(s)
- ☐ Morning announcements (or equivalent) frequently mention Unified and/or include a message of inclusion
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Please describe your school's Whole School Engagement plan. \*

### What will be offered? When? Who will be involved?

We plan 2-3 respecs weeks with PBSIS. We create a week long disabilities awareness week. We create a video to share on Unified and way it impacts our life. We plan a field day in June to celebrate all our Unified Partners. We have Unified practices every Monday. Support for our bowling, track and e-sports programs. We have annoucements for all students as well as participate in morning annoucements. We create an inclusive environment with all Unified partners.



## UCS

grants are intended to be used to get your Unified programs up and running so your school and district can see the many benefits and impacts within the school. The goal is that the school/district will eventually fully fund these Unified opportunities.

**How much funding do you anticipate your school/district providing to Unified initiatives for the 2025-26 school year?**

\*

*Please include specific amounts.*

*For example -*

*\$10,000 total (\$5,000 for coach stipends, \$2,500 for transportation, \$2,500 for supplies and uniforms)*

500- Tshirts

1500 - Stipend for Bowling, E-Sports & Track

500 - Club Stipend

**How much money do you anticipate fundraising for your 2025-26 Unified initiatives?**

*Please include specifics.*

*For example -*

*Cool Schools Challenge in November (\$1000 expected)*

*Car wash in March (\$400 expected)*

Year Long Coffee Corner Sales - \$500 expected

Dress Down Day - \$500 expected but donated back to Special Olympics Each year

## How do you plan to reduce dependency on SONJ UCS funding beyond the 2025-26 school year? \*

We continue to try to negotiate club / coaching stipend but have to wait until each contract comes up and are always pushed to the side. We try and hope this upcoming contract it will start.

## Additional comments about self-sustainability

Fundraised money becomes PO money which becomes very difficult. Once fundraised money is put into an account it becomes difficult to access. We are still trying to find loopholes with this.

All bussing & jerseys are donated by athletics. I have 1 additional coaching stipend. We have three coaches. 18 Special Ed / 40 Gen ed Students in Unified Club (678)

Please visit our Grant Application Dashboard and review the "For Review Prior to Applying" section prior to completing your application.

**Each pillar of UCS (Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement) has its own section for budgeting.**

## Are you requesting funding for the 2025-26 school year? \*

☒ Yes. Please continue the application.

☐ No, we're self-funded. Congrats - you're finished with the application!

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

**Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Itemized Budget \***

For Example:

Basketball Coach \$750

Track Coach \$750

Assistant Track Coach \$500

E-Sports Coach - 500 Bowling Coach 500 Track Coach 500

**Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Total Amount Requested \***

1500

.....

**Unified Sports Facility Rental - Itemized Budget \***

For Example:

4 practices at Bowlero at \$100 each

0

.....

**Unified Sports Facility Rental - Total Amount Requested \***

*Available only to interscholastic teams*

0

.....



**Unified Sports Transportation - Itemized Budget \***

For Example:

4 practices at Bowlero \$280

*(only available for interscholastic Unified teams)*

0

**Unified Sports Transportation - Total Amount Requested \***

*(only available for interscholastic Unified teams)*

0

**Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Itemized Budget**

\*

*(available for up to 3 competitions per interscholastic Unified sports team)*

0

**Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Total Amount Requested**

\*

*(available for up to 3 competitions per interscholastic Unified sports team)*

0

**Unified Sports Supplies - Itemized Budget \***

*Please do not include t-shirts in this category*

0

**Unified Sports Supplies - Total Amount Requested \***

*Please do not include t-shirts in this category*

0

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

**Club Advisor Stipends - Total Amount Requested \***

500

**Club Advisor Stipends - Itemized Budget \***

Club Advisor - 500

**Club / IYL Supplies - Total Amount Requested \***

*Limits include:*

*Up to \$100 for non-durable goods*

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

0

**Club / IYL Supplies - Itemized Budget**

\*

*Limits include:**Up to \$100 for non-durable goods*

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

0

**Club / IYL T-Shirts - Total Amount Requested \****Limits include:**Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts*

500

**Club / IYL T-Shirts - Itemized Budget \****Limits include:**Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts*

500

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

**Whole School Engagement Supplies - Total Amount Requested \***

0

## Whole School Engagement Supplies - Itemized Budget \*

0

**Total Funding Requested**

\*

*Should match the total of all categories above*

\$2500

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