

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 *

lkohn@twpunionschools.org

Name of person completing application *

Lauren Kohn

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

Union High School

School Name *

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

Union High School

School District *

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

Township of Union Public Schools

School Mailing Address *

2350 North 3rd Street

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? *

2350

School NCES Number

*

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

341650005742

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 *

Althea Bossard

Principal Email Address *

abossard@twpunionschools.org

Superintendent Name *

Dr. Benaquista

Superintendent Email Address *

gbenaquista@twpunionschools.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.

Lauren Kohn

School Liaison Email

lkohn@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: coach

School Co-Liaison Name *

Kim Matta

School Co-Liaison Email *

kmatta@twpunionschools.org

School Co-Liaison's Role within School *

Teacher



Social Worker/ Case Manager



Director of Special Services or equivalent



Principal



Athletic Director



Other School Administrator



Other:

School Administrator Name *

Althea Bossard

School Administrator Email *

abossard@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.

Corey Baker-paraprofessional- cbaker@twpunionschools.org

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.

*

In the process of getting it approved

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: egaming

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?

Bowling-We will practice 1 x a week and have at least 3 competitions. I will recruit participants by making school announcements, by unified members spreading the word and hosting a information session.

Egaming- 1xweek and 1 competition per week. I will recruit participants by making school announcements, by unified members spreading the word and hosting a information session.

Track and field- 1 x week and 3 competitions. I will recruit participants by making school announcements, by unified members spreading the word and hosting a information session.

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: YAC

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?

Our club meets 1 x monthly for a meeting, a minimum 1 x month for an event and during lunches throughout the month. Our club will do a variety of fitness activities, events, and 1 x a marking period a service project (new for next year).

Students with and without intellectual disabilities will gather ideas together, create a plan, and run the activities they care about. By working as a team, they will not only make decisions and advocate for themselves, but also lead meaningful change that benefits the entire school. There will be mixed-ability student groups/teams that focus on a topic/events of their interest. These teams will organize events, lead campaigns, and educate others—showing that everyone has a voice and can make a difference. They will have shared responsibilities so each team member contributes meaningfully. We will use visual schedules, assistive tech, and simplified language so all team members can understand and participate equally.

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?

The school will offer awareness campaigns (like Spread the Word, World Down Syndrome Day, Autism Acceptance), Respect week, and fundraising events to support Unified activities and Special Olympics New Jersey.

Fundraising efforts will engage the whole school community to provide resources for Unified Sports and Unified programs.

Unified Sports competitions and team recognitions will take place during the school day, supported by regular mentions in assemblies, morning announcements, and school social media—including dedicated Unified accounts once approved.

Students with and without intellectual disabilities, staff, families, and community partners will collaborate year-round to lead, promote, and participate in these events, fostering a culture of inclusion and advocacy.

Continued on next page

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)

\$1000 for transportation to sporting events

\$150 for sports supplies

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)

\$10,000-Cool Schools Challenge

All year snack/water sales- \$5,000

Spiritwear Sales-\$500

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

My plan is to work with the district to fund portions of Unified Sports, such as, coaching and stipends and uniforms so I can reduce dependency each year.

Additional comments about self-sustainability

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!

Itemized Budget

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

Bowling coach-\$450, E-gaming coach-\$450, track and field-head coach \$450, assistant coach-\$350

Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Total Amount Requested *

\$1700

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

\$150

Unified Sports Supplies - Total Amount Requested *

Please do not include t-shirts in this category

\$150

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 *

\$1400

Club Advisor Stipends - Itemized Budget *

Unified Club (advisor- \$450, co-advisor-\$300), Unified School Liason- (\$450) Co-school liason- (\$200)

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 *

100

Whole School Engagement Supplies - Itemized Budget *

100

Total Funding Requested

*

Should match the total of all categories above

\$3900

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