

# 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 \*

lbonomo@twpunionschools.org

First Name Last Name

Name of person completing application \*

Laura Bonomo

**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

## School Name \*

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

Washington Elementary School

## School District \*

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

Township of Union

## School Mailing Address \*

301 Washington Avenue, 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? \***

567

**School NCES Number**

\*

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

341650005760

**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.

2025-26 SONJ UCS Funding Application

**Principal Name \***

Mrs. Kelly Piano

**Principal Email Address \***

kpiano@twpunionschools.org

**Superintendent Name \***

Dr. Gerald 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.

Laura Bonomo

## School Liaison Email

lbonomo@twpunionschools.org

## School Liaison's Role within School \*



Teacher



Social Worker/Case Manager



Director of Special Services or equivalent



Principal



Athletic Director



Other School Administrator



Other:

## School Co-Liaison Name \*

Cheryl Calabrese

**School Co-Liaison Email \***

ccalabrese@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 \***

Kelly Piano

**School Administrator Email \***

kpiano@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.**

Tiffany Rand - trand@twpunionschools.org - teacher

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

**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?**

Unified recess will meet weekly during recess time . The students will work together on various recess activities and games. We will recruit participants by choosing good peer leaders and those that demonstrate kindness to others that have disabilities.

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?**

The young athletes will meet at least once a month during a win time and participate in activities such as basketball, volleyball and bowling. The peer leaders will model appropriate behaviors and assist students with the activities. The liaison will oversee all activities.

**How will you ensure that all students are included?**

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 engagement plan is to have peer leaders that are chosen, work with students who have disabilities in fun structured activities weekly.

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)*

*\$250 - transportation to events*

**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)*

*Cupcake wars - \$300 expected*

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

\*

*more fundraising*

**Additional comments about self-sustainability**

As a team, we will try to fundraise as much as possible for the program to continue.

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

\$0

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

\$0

**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**

\*

\$0

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

\$0

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**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

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**Club / IYL Supplies - Itemized Budget \***

*Limits include:*

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

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

\$0

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**Club / IYL T-Shirts - Total Amount Requested \***

*Limits include:*

*Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts*

\$0

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**Club / IYL T-Shirts - Itemized Budget \***

*Limits include:*

*Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts*

\$0

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 \***

\$1000

**Whole School Engagement Supplies - Itemized Budget \***

\$500 - club stipend \$500 T-shirts

**Total Funding Requested**

\*

*Should match the total of all categories above*

\$1000

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