

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES
Township of Union Public Schools
M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

TO: Dr. Gerald Benaquista

C: Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Marissa McKenzie, Yolanda Koon, Kim Conti, Bernadette Watson,
Diane Cappiello

FROM: Stefannie Buthorn 

RE: Board Agenda

DATE: August 18, 2026

Approve acceptance of funds from the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools 2026-2027 Grant for Kawameeh Middle School- \$750, in accordance with the information appended to the agenda



2026-27 Special Olympics New Jersey Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) Grant

Congratulations on being selected to receive a Unified Champion Schools (UCS) Grant for the 2026–27 school year! By accepting this award, you agree to the terms and conditions of the 2026–27 UCS Grant as outlined in the funding guidelines which, along with additional resources, are available on the [UCS website](#).

The UCS Grant operates on a reimbursement basis. Schools or districts are responsible for making and paying for purchases and stipends upfront and then submitting eligible expenses for reimbursement.

Key funding and reimbursement guidelines include:

- UCS grant funds are intended to support meaningful Unified initiatives and therefore cannot be used for food, awards, non-Unified events or activities, items that are reasonably available, or expenses that are not considered necessary to program implementation.
- Pre-approval is required for:
 - Both the design and purchase of all apparel, including uniforms and t-shirts
 - Items using Special Olympics, UCS, or Unified Sports logos or branding
 - Please note: approvals from prior years and prior purchases do not carry over.
- Stipend eligibility:
 - Coaches must complete and submit required training prior to the sports season beginning in order for stipends to be eligible for reimbursement. Trainings are valid for 3 years.

Important deadlines for this school year include:

- Reimbursement requests must be submitted within 30 days of payment
- All expenses incurred and paid September-December 2026 must be submitted by January 20, 2027
- All physical supplies must be purchased and in hand by April 20, 2027
- July 3, 2027 is the final deadline to submit reimbursement requests

To remain in good standing with the UCS grant, each school is expected to:

- Implement all three components of UCS in accordance with issued guidelines
- Attend required meetings as communicated by the UCS team
- Submit all required reports and surveys in full and by established deadlines
- Conduct a fundraiser commensurate with the school's funding level

We look forward to working with you to build more inclusive school communities where all students feel a sense of belonging. Please know that our UCS team is always happy to support you and answer questions along the way. Thank you for all you do to champion inclusion in your school community.

Together in inclusion,

Andrea Allen
Inclusive Education Director

Katie Telschow
Inclusive Education Director

Jaclyn Williamson
Unified Champion Schools Manager



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools

2026-27 Special Olympics New Jersey Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) Grant

School Name: *Kawameeh Middle School*

District: *Twg of Union Public Schools*

Award Amount: *\$750*

School Liaison Name: *Michele Nick*

Signature: *Michele Nick*

Date: *8-14-26*

Chief School Administrator (or designee) Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

Business Administrator Name:

Signature:

Date:

SONJ Representative Name:

Signature:

Date: