

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

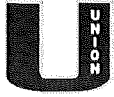
FROM: Stefannie Buthorn 

RE: Board Agenda

DATE: July 15, 2026

Approve application to the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools 2026-2027 Grant and acceptance of funds for the following schools, in accordance with the information appended to the agenda:

Burnet Middle School- \$2200
Union High School- \$4600



Stefannie Buthorn <sbuthorn@twpunionschools.org>

Fwd: Thanks for filling out this form: 2026-27 SONJ UCS Funding Application

Stefannie Buthorn <sbuthorn@twpunionschools.org>
To: Stefannie Buthorn <sbuthorn@twpunionschools.org>

Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 11:06 AM

Thanks for filling out this form: 2026-27 SONJ UCS Funding Application



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Here's what was received.

2026-27 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 2026-27 school year.

Please be sure to visit our application guide on <https://www.sonj-ucs.org/about-ucs/funding-application/> prior to applying for important information and the application's password.

Please submit a separate form for each school.

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

Email *

dschraer@twpunionschools.org

Application Information

Name of person completing application *

Diana Schraer

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

☒ Agreed

Application Password

This was distributed during the May 14 webinar and is included in the application guide, which is available on the UCS website (www.sonj-ucs.org) --> About UCS --> Funding Application

Choose to Include

School Information

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

School Mailing Address *

1000 Caldwell Ave Union NJ

School Zip Code *

07083

School County *

Union

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? *

970

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 year
- ☐ 2 years
- ☐ 3 years
- ☐ 4 years
- ☐ 5 years
- ☒ More than 5 years
- ☐ We've been self-funded for at least one year.

School Contact Information

Principal Name *

Ben Kloc

Principal Email Address *

bkloc@twpunionschools.org

Superintendent Name *

Dr. Gerry Benaquista,

Superintendent Email Address *

superintendent@tups.org

Business Administrator Name *

Yolanda Koon

Business Administrator Email Address *

ykoon@tups.org

UCS School Leadership Team

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 Manager
- ☐ Director of Special Services or equivalent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Other: _____

School Co-Liaison Name

Dave Castaneda

School Co-Liaison Email

dcastaneda@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 *

Andrea Korb

School Administrator Email *

akorb@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. *

n/a

Three Components of UCS

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. *

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: _____

Unified Sports

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 Unified Sport(s) does your school plan to offer?

This question is for middle and high schools only. Elementary and pre-schools should select "not offering interscholastic Unified Sports"

*

- ☐ Soccer
- ☒ Bowling
- ☐ Basketball
- ☒ Track and Field
- ☐ Kickball
- ☐ Flag Football (Spring)
- ☐ Flag Football (Fall)
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Volleyball
- ☐ Not offering interscholastic sports

☐ Other:

For each Unified Sports opportunity you intend to implement, please describe your plan for implementation.

Your response should include information on practice or meeting schedules, anticipated competitions, and recruitment strategies.

Our students practice 1x a week usually Mondays after school 2:45-4:30 from October to June. We implement each sport in 8 week cycles. For Bowling we add 3 additional Bowling practices at the bowling alley. For Track and Field we add three additional practices in May and June. E-sports is run Separately for 8 weeks 2x a week. Students participate in Unified Cups as well as the Special Olympics Summer Games. We have a large turnout of athletes and this helps as the foundation to help grow our UHS program. We have parent zooms, and after school meeting 1x a month to plan and communicate all information.

Inclusive Youth Leadership

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)
- ☐ Unified Young Readers
- ☐ Other:

For your Inclusive Youth Leadership offerings, please describe your implementation plan.

Your response should include how often the group will meet, the activities students will lead or participate in, and how students with and without intellectual disabilities will collaborate in decision-making, self-advocacy, and school-wide awareness and advocacy initiatives.

*

This Unified Club meets 1x a month. This is to plan club activities such as Holiday parties, pep rallies, spirit weeks, Unified Field Day etc. We also have buddy lunch every Wednesday during lunches. Students socialize, play games, and work on social team building skills. We have year round coffee sales, ice pop fundraisers and a bake sale. We plan all fundraisers as well.

Whole School Engagement

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? *

- ☐ Club Fair / Recruitment Table / Back to School Night Info Table
- ☐ Start With Hello Day
- ☒ Week of Respect, including Disability Awareness
- ☐ Fall Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☐ Thanks4Giving Cool Schools Challenge
- ☐ International Day of Persons with Disabilities Celebration
- ☐ Jingle All the Way Cool Schools Challenge
- ☐ Winter Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☐ Wildwood Plunge Cool Schools Challenge
- ☒ Spread the Word: Inclusion Campaign
- ☒ Week of Inclusion Spirit Days

- ☐ Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
- ☒ Autism Acceptance Day
- ☐ Lincoln Tunnel Challenge Cool Schools Challenge
- ☒ Unified Field Day
- ☐ Spring Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☐ Walk SONJ Cool Schools Challenge
- ☐ Other fundraising event or campaign
- ☒ 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.

Include what activities or initiatives will be offered, when they will take place, and who will be involved in planning and participation.

*

Our school shares all events and information on the Township of Union Social Media Platforms (Facebook). We plan a week of respect that leads up to our Unified Field Day with four district schools. We plan an autism awareness month along with an Autism Acceptance Day. All awards and sports events are shared on morning announcements. We participate in the Week of Respect & Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign. This is planned through our Unified Club and we work closely with the High School to coordinate all events.

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 does your school or district anticipate contributing to Unified initiatives during the 2026-27 school year?

This amount should be *in addition to* any Unified UCS funding received from SONJ. Please include specific dollar amounts and indicate how funds will be allocated.

Example:

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

*

\$1800 for an additional coachin stipend.

What fundraising efforts are you planning to support your Unified initiatives during the 2026–27 school year, and how much do you anticipate raising?

Example:

Cool Schools Challenge (November): \$1,000

Car wash (April): \$400 expected

*

All year coffee corner & Ice Pop Sale - \$500

How does your school plan to reduce reliance on SONJ UCS funding beyond the 2026–27 school year?

Please describe strategies your school will use to financially sustain Unified initiatives over time, such as securing school or district support, fundraising efforts, community partnerships, sponsorships, or other long-term funding plans.

If your school is self-funded, please enter N/A.

*

We will continue to work with our athletic director and fundraise the best we can.

Additional comments about self-funding and self-sustainability.

All bussing is paid for by the Township of Union. Since we have three sports we have had one coaching stipend funded by the BOE but need multiple coaches to help throughout the year. After school paras are paid for by the district.

Budget

Each UCS pillar—Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement—has its own budget section. Please list expenses separately un

--
Stefannie Buthorn
Supervisor of Special Services
Township of Union Public Schools
(908) 851-4896

Parental Rights in Special Education
Parental Rights in Special Education: Spanish (2023*)

N.J. Administrative Code 6A:14, Special Education

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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: Burnet Middle School

District: Township of Union

Award Amount: \$2,200

School Liaison Name: Diana Schraer

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 6/8/26

Chief School Administrator (or designee) Name:

Title: Principal

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 6/8/26

Business Administrator Name:

Signature:

Date:

SONJ Representative Name:

Signature:

Date:



Stefannie Buthorn <sbuthorn@twpunionschools.org>

Fwd: Thanks for filling out this form: 2026-27 SONJ UCS Funding Application

1 message

Lauren Kohn <lkohn@twpunionschools.org>
To: Stefannie Buthorn <sbuthorn@twpunionschools.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 10:29 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Forms Response Receipts** <forms-receipts-noreply@google.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 12:16 PM
Subject: Thanks for filling out this form: 2026-27 SONJ UCS Funding Application
To: <lkohn@twpunionschools.org>

Thanks for filling out this form: 2026-27 SONJ UCS Funding Application



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Please submit a separate form for each school.

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

Email *

lkohn@twpunionschools.org

Application Information

Name of person completing application *

Lauren Kohn

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

☒ Agreed

Application Password

This was distributed during the May 14 webinar and is included in the application guide, which is available on the UCS website (www.sonj-ucs.org) --> About UCS --> Funding Application

Choose to Include

School Information

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 School

School Mailing Address *

2350 North 3rd Street

School Zip Code *

07083

School County *

Union

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? *

2410

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 year
- ☐ 2 years
- ☐ 3 years
- ☐ 4 years

- ☐ 5 years
- ☒ More than 5 years
- ☐ We've been self-funded for at least one year.

School Contact Information

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

UCS School Leadership Team

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 Manager
- ☐ Director of Special Services or equivalent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Other School Administrator

☐

Other:

School Co-Liaison Name

Jill Mincoelli
.....

School Co-Liaison Email

jmincoelli@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: paraprofessional
.....

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. *

cbaker@twpunionschools.org, paraprofessional, Coach

Three Components of UCS

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, we are working on that for this school year.

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:

Unified Sports

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.

For each selection, please provide an implementation plan where requested.

*

- ☒ 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 Unified Sport(s) does your school plan to offer?

This question is for middle and high schools only. Elementary and pre-schools should select "not offering interscholastic Unified Sports"

*

- ☐ Soccer
- ☒ Bowling
- ☒ Basketball
- ☐ Track and Field

- ☐ Kickball
- ☒ Flag Football (Spring)
- ☒ Flag Football (Fall)
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Volleyball
- ☐ Not offering interscholastic sports
- ☐ Other:

For each Unified Sports opportunity you intend to implement - including Unified PE, Unified Recess, Young Athletes, intramural and interscholastic Unified Sports, etc. - please describe your plan for implementation.

Your response should include information on practice or meeting schedules, anticipated competitions, and recruitment strategies.

*

We will have an initial interest meeting, review the requirements and what will be expected, provide all paperwork athletes will need and provide deadlines when paperwork needs to be back.

We will have practice at least once a week and play against various teams.
.....

Inclusive Youth Leadership

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)
- ☐ Unified Young Readers
- ☒ Other: Unified Lunch meetings

For your Inclusive Youth Leadership offerings, please describe your implementation plan.

Your response should include how often the group will meet, the activities students will lead or participate in, and how students with and without intellectual disabilities will collaborate in decision-making, self-advocacy, and school-wide awareness and advocacy initiatives.

*

The board of the Unified group will meet once a month at the beginning of the month to plan our after school meeting for the following month, we will have one after school club meeting each month , we will have one awareness booth a month,we will pick our volunteer activities for the year and we will also have a Unified event multiple times during the school year. We will also expand opportunities for students to work together at our work sites. During our initial meeting we will also discuss what others would like to do during the year.

Whole School Engagement

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? *

- ☒ Club Fair / Recruitment Table / Back to School Night Info Table
- ☒ Start With Hello Day
- ☒ Week of Respect, including Disability Awareness
- ☐ Fall Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☒ Thanks4Giving Cool Schools Challenge

- ☒ International Day of Persons with Disabilities Celebration
- ☐ Jingle All the Way Cool Schools Challenge
- ☐ Winter Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☐ Wildwood Plunge Cool Schools Challenge
- ☒ Spread the Word: Inclusion Campaign
- ☒ Week of Inclusion Spirit Days
- ☒ Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
- ☒ Autism Acceptance Day
- ☐ Lincoln Tunnel Challenge Cool Schools Challenge
- ☒ Unified Field Day
- ☐ Spring Fans in the Stands for Unified Sports
- ☐ Walk SONJ Cool Schools Challenge
- ☒ Other fundraising event or campaign
- ☒ 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.

Include what activities or initiatives will be offered, when they will take place, and who will be involved in planning and participation.

*

Our Whole School Engagement plan will include many activities such as, September Greet and Meet, morning announcements for awareness, continue to run awareness booths, have bulletin boards with facts, continue to have Unified Sports featured as all other sports, social media features for Unified sports and club activities, daily fundraisers, our annual field day in May, spirit weeks throughout the year for inclusion/disability awareness, Spread the word Campaign, participate in the Cool School Challenge, and have a week of respect. We have not finalize days/weeks for all activities yet but will do so in September.

Self-Sustainability

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 does your school or district anticipate contributing to Unified initiatives during the 2026-27 school year?

This amount should be *in addition to* any Unified UCS funding received from SONJ. Please include specific dollar amounts and indicate how funds will be allocated.

Example:

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

*

I have submitted for approval of purchasing about \$7500 for sport related items such as uniforms and equipment for this upcoming school year. I also anticipate on spending about \$3,000 for events/activities.

What fundraising efforts are you planning to support your Unified initiatives during the 2026–27 school year, and how much do you anticipate raising?

Example:

Cool Schools Challenge (November): \$1,000

Car wash (April): \$400 expected

*

Daily fundraiser selling snacks/water (\$5,000)

Spiritwear sales (\$500)

Cool School Challenge- (\$5,000)

How does your school plan to reduce reliance on SONJ UCS funding beyond the 2026–27 school year?

Please describe strategies your school will use to financially sustain Unified initiatives over time, such as securing school or district support, fundraising efforts, community partnerships, sponsorships, or other long-term funding plans.

If your school is self-funded, please enter N/A.

*

I am hoping that our Unified sports will be added to the budget so it will have stipends like other sports and I also am working on Unified Club being added as a stipend Club. I will also work with community partners for donations.

Additional comments about self-funding and self-sustainability.

Budget

Each UCS pillar—Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement—has its own budget section. Please list expenses separately under each pillar and avoid duplicating costs across sections.

Are you requesting funding for the 2026-27 school year? *

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

Unified Sports Expenses

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

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport.

Pre-K and elementary schools offering Unified Sports outside of an individual's contracted work hours should report stipend expenses under Inclusive Youth Leadership Stipends

Please itemize anticipated transportation costs.

Example: Unified Bowling Coach @ \$1,000, Unified Track and Field Coach @ \$1,000

*

Bowling (\$450 head coach and \$250 assistant coach), E-Sports (\$400 for head coach)Flag Football, (\$450 head coach and \$350 assistant coach), Basketball (\$450 head coach, \$350 assistant coach)

Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total Unified Sports Coach Stipends cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

\$2700

Unified Sports Facility Rental – Itemized Budget

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport that requires off-site facility rental.

Please itemize anticipated rental costs.

Example: 4 practices at Bowlero @ \$100 per practice

*

0

Unified Sports Facility Rental - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total facility rental cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

0

Unified Sports Transportation - Itemized Budget

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport.

Please itemize anticipated transportation costs.

Example: 4 away Unified Flag Football games @ \$500 each

*

0

Unified Sports Transportation - Total Amount Requested

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport.

Enter the total transportation cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

0

Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Itemized Budget

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport. Officials' fees may be reimbursed for up to three (3) home competitions per interscholastic Unified Sports team

Please itemize anticipated officials' fees.

Example: 2 officials (\$75 each) at 3 home Unified Basketball games

*

0

Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Total Amount Requested

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport. Officials' fees may be reimbursed for up to three (3)

home competitions per interscholastic Unified Sports team.

Enter the total officials' fees cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

0

Unified Sports Supplies – Itemized Budget

Please itemize all anticipated supplies needed to support your Unified Sports program. This category may include sport-specific equipment and consumable supplies. **Do not include t-shirts or uniforms in this section.**

Example:

Flag footballs (6 @ \$25 each) and Cones and training equipment (\$150)

*

0

Unified Sports Supplies - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total officials' fees cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

Do not include t-shirts or uniforms in this section.

*

0

Unified Sports Uniforms - Itemized Budget

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport. Uniforms are expected to be used for multiple years.

Please itemize all uniform-related expenses needed to support your Unified Sports team(s).

T-Shirts should not be included in this category. You may request them in Inclusive Youth Leadership Supplies.

Example:

Unified basketball jerseys (first season): 12 @ \$40

Supplemental bowling jerseys (team is growing): 3 @ \$20

*

0

Unified Sports Uniforms - Total Amount Requested

This budget category is available only to middle and high schools offering an interscholastic Unified Sport.

Enter the total uniform cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

0

Inclusive Youth Leadership (Club) Expenses

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

Club Advisor Stipends - Itemized Budget

Example:

Unified Club Lead Advisor \$500

Unified Club Assistant Advisor \$400

*

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

Club Advisor Stipends - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total club advisor stipend cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

\$1400

Club / IYL Supplies - Itemized Budget

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

Example:

\$50 for posterboard for inclusion week

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

*

0

Club / IYL Supplies - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total club/IYL supplies cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

*

0

Club / IYL T-Shirts - Itemized Budget

Limit \$500 for up to 75 shirts

*

\$500

Club / IYL T-Shirts - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total club/IYL t-shirts stipend cost
calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

\$500

Whole School Engagement Expenses

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

Whole School Engagement Supplies - Itemized Budget

Please only include items which are not reasonably available at your school.

Promotional items and awards are not eligible for reimbursement.

*

0

Whole School Engagement Supplies - Total Amount Requested

Enter the total WSE supplies cost calculated from the itemized budget in the previous question.

*

0

Total Funding

Total Funding Requested

Should equal the total of all categories above

*

\$4600

Create your own Google Form

Does this form look suspicious? Report



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: **Union High School**

District: **Township of Union Public Schools**

Award Amount: **\$4600**

School Liaison Name: **Lauren Kohn**

Signature: *Lauren Kohn*

Date: **7-15-2026**

Chief School Administrator (or designee) Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date:

Business Administrator Name:

Signature:

Date:

SONJ Representative Name:

Signature:

Date: