

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA BY THE NUMBERS

TODAY

ATHLETES SERVED

22,052

Volunteers
20,395



Top Sports by Participation:

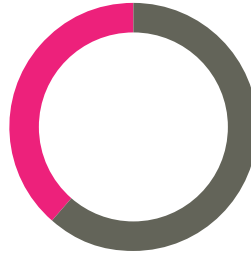
1. Track & Field 10,738
2. Basketball 7,604
3. Bowling 5,389
4. Soccer 5,229



We grow by 6 athletes every day of the year
Our volunteer base grows by 6 people every day of the year

Core Values:

Sportsmanship
Volunteerism
Acceptance



66% YOUTH
34% ADULT

184
Competitions



1968 – The first-ever Special Olympics games are held in Chicago under the direction of Eunice Kennedy Shiver

1973 – Special Olympics Nevada officially opens its doors

1995 – Special Olympics Northern California officially opens its doors

2000 – Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada join together



400+ K-12 schools involved

9,846 Schools Partnership Program student-athletes

33,444 Schools Partnership Program general education peers

24 weeks of sports training and competition in school

Schools Partnership Program Components

Special Olympics
Northern California



The Special Olympics Northern California Schools Partnership Program is a unique education program providing opportunities in schools for all students, from preschool to transition. It unifies students with and without disabilities through **Sports** and **Whole-School Involvement** activities that provide them with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all students.

Sports

- **Unified Sports:** Combines students with and without disabilities on sports teams for training and competition.
- **Traditional Special Olympics Sports:** Students with disabilities (IEP or 504 plan) train and compete against each other. Team sports and individual skills events are offered.
- **Young Athletes Program:** Preschool students participate in single-day introductions to sports and Special Olympics.

Whole-School Involvement

- A youth-centered, school-focused initiative that uses the Special Olympics sports and education program to activate all students, engage educators, involve the entire school, and promote a campus culture of acceptance and social inclusion where all young people are agents of change.

Special Olympics Unified Strategy for Schools

The **Special Olympics Unified Strategy for Schools** aims to **reduce bullying** and aggression, promote **healthy activities**, and eliminate stereotypes, thereby helping ALL students feel **safer and more connected** to their schools.

- **84%** of students without disabilities stated that involvement in the Special Olympics Unified Strategy was a positive turning point in their lives.
- **87%** of students learned that standing up for something they believe is the right thing to do.
- **84%** of students learned the skills of patience and compromise.
- **81%** of students learned about the challenges of being a leader.

Students with disabilities are **making new friends** and getting to **try new things**. The model has helped many **feel like part of the school** for the first time.

- **75%** of school advisors associated an increase in participation of students with ID in school activities when implementing the Unified Strategy.
- **64%** of young people with ID reported a significant change in self-esteem and self-confidence
- **78%** of students exposed to the Unified Strategy for Schools have improved their behavior and attitudes towards individuals with ID.
- **65%** of youth without ID report a significant change in socialization with their peers who have ID.

How to Get Involved

The best ways to get involved in the Unified Strategy are to participate in Unified Sports and Whole-School Involvement activities.

- Bring a Unified team to the soccer, basketball, or track & field competitions at one of our host schools.
- Even better, host a Unified Sports event at your school so your entire school community may benefit.
- Participate in a Whole-School Involvement activity on your campus.



What is Unified Sports?

Unified Sports is a program where students with and without disabilities can practice and compete as teammates. Both athletes and partners will have meaningful involvement on their teams, which helps to increase campus inclusion and opportunities for friendships to be built.

Who Can Participate in Unified Sports?

Any student is able to compete in a Unified Sports program. There are three different models your school can participate in:

- **Recreation Model:** athletes and partners practice a specific sport together for 6-8 weeks, with a culminating event (exhibition or tournament) which can have both games and skill stations
- **Competitive Model:** athletes and partners are of similar age and ability level, and all must possess the relevant skills to play the specific sport without modification of Special Olympic Unified rules. Like the Recreation Model, teams practice during the season, and compete in tournaments or a league with other Unified schools.
- **Player Development Model:** partners are of a higher skill level for the specific sport, and serve as mentors and teammates to the athletes throughout the season. Rules modification is often necessary, and the culminating event is equally split between skill stations and games

Ways to Form a Unified Team

- **Inclusive Campus Clubs:** Special and general education students meeting weekly. Sports are a great activity for meetings, and clubs can compete as a Unified team at competitions

- **Lunch sports:** Lunch is a great time to have a Unified exhibition. No issues of getting students released from class, and the entire campus can come out to watch the game
- **Inclusive PE:** Collaborating with general education PE class to have inclusive PE time where students can practice as a Unified team
- **Athletic teams:** Involving a group of student-athletes from the school team to be Unified teammates. Student-athletes are great for teaching their sport
- **Leadership:** Partner with a leadership class. Students can come into the special education classes to practice sports in the weeks leading up to a competition



If you have any questions about Unified Sports and the Special Olympics Schools Partnership program, contact your Area Manager or schools@sonc.org



Young Athletes Program

The Special Olympics Young Athletes Program is a sport and play program that introduces children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2-7, to the world of sport through fun activities, such as walking on a floor-level balance beam, jumping on targets, and throwing/catching/kicking a ball.



Activities support cognitive development, hand-eye coordination, and social skills. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers, and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children.



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