

Unified Champion Schools Funding

Special Olympics Maine is pleased to announce once again that funding will be available for schools to support their Unified Champion Schools efforts. To become eligible for this funding, schools that apply must exhibit how they will incorporate all three Unified School components, listed below, into their school community.

- Unified Sports
- Inclusive Youth Leadership
- Whole School Engagement

The combination of all three Unified Champion School components in a school setting continues to provide the best approach for schools. Special Olympics Maine has witnessed first-hand the tremendous results Unified Champion Schools has had on school climates when these three components are implemented together. The results have been overwhelmingly positive and have shown to bring positive change to entire school community, including increased sense of belonging, more respect amongst students, and offering new opportunities to those who typically did not have them.

Based on funding we received, Special Olympics Maine will be able to offer schools who meet criteria an opportunity to receive funding as follows:

- Awards will range from \$1-\$6,000.00. See examples of funding below:
 - Interscholastic Special Olympics Unified Basketball applicants max request – \$2,500.00 year 1 & \$2,000.00 year 2. Schools that previously received Year 1 & 2 funding – \$1,000.00 max
 - Interscholastic Special Olympics Unified Bocce applicants max request per year – \$1,000.00
 - Young Athletes Programs max request – \$1,000.00 per year
 - Youth Summit max per year – \$500.00
 - Other acceptable expenses includes materials for Unified PE, uniforms, leadership activities, and teacher stipends.

Applications are accepted in 2 windows, with deadlines of October 26, 2026 and February 22, 2027. ***Please review the application questions and draft responses prior to starting the application. You can create a login and return to your application if needed.*** Once an application is submitted the Unified Champion Schools Director and Regional Managers will review and contact you after the review window.