

Project UNIFY 2011-2012 (Year 4) Performance Measures

In Year 4 the focus of Project UNIFY was to enhance the depth of programming in schools, and increase the value of Project UNIFY to participating State SO Programs, schools, and students with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) in those schools.

Breadth of Project UNIFY at the State Level*:

- **Schools participating in Project UNIFY**
 - 2,150 schools were actively participating in Project UNIFY across 41 states.
- **Student experiences¹ in Project UNIFY activities and programming**
 - 823,462 youth experiences with Project UNIFY overall (all activities, no matter level of impact)
 - 598,646 youth exposed to Project UNIFY at rallies, assemblies and as Fans in the Stands
 - 158,402 youth exposed to more intensive experiences as Unified Sports® and young athletes participants, youth leaders without disabilities and members of Partners Clubs and Youth Activation Committees
 - There are 24 state level Youth Activation Committees
 - 2,065 Spread The Word To End The Word activities were conducted

¹Data reflects number of students reported as engaged in each initiative. Students may have been involved in more than one initiative.

Breadth of Project UNIFY at the School Level:**

- **Initiatives Implemented**
 - 56% of schools implemented the Spread the Word to End the Word (“R Word”) campaign
 - 46% of schools offered Unified Sports programming
 - **29%** of schools had students who participated in Fans in the Stands
 - 39% of schools had a Partners Club
 - **19%** of schools offered the Young Athletes Program
 - 27% of schools participated in Fundraising
 - 29% of schools were using GET INTO IT®
 - 20% of schools offered Youth Leadership Training
- **Combinations of Initiatives**
 - **62% (72% Category 1, 54% Category 2)** of schools offered one or more inclusive sports initiatives (*e.g. Unified Sports, Traditional SO Sports, SO Sports Day, Young Athletes*)
 - 72% of schools offered an inclusive sports initiative and a youth leadership/activation initiative
 - 76% of schools offered at least 2 components
 - 43% of schools offered all 3 components or qualify as Category 1 (High Activation)
- **School Staff Involvement in Implementation**
 - 70% of schools involved Special Education staff
 - 44% of schools involved General Education staff
 - 24% of schools involved parents
 - 41% of schools had direct administrative involvement in Project UNIFY activities
- **Student Involvement in Implementation**
 - 59% of schools involved students without ID in the implementation of Project UNIFY
 - 49% of schools involved students with ID in the implementation

Value/Satisfaction of Project UNIFY to the Students*:**

Project UNIFY is providing students with and without ID with experiences that allow them to learn new things. Percentages are consistent or increased over 2 years of data.

- 78% of participating students said Project UNIFY was a positive turning point in their lives
- 79% of students felt they became more patient
- 79% of students felt they learned to compromise
- 65% of students felt they learned they have things in common with their peers with ID
- **91%** of students said that their school should do Project UNIFY again next year

Value/Satisfaction of Project UNIFY to State Special Olympics Programs**:

It is clear that continual efforts to communicate the role that Special Olympics and programs like Project UNIFY can play within the educational community have begun to be realized.

- 97% of the 38 CEOs of State Programs participating in Project UNIFY believe that Project UNIFY has changed the way the educational community views Special Olympics as an organization.
- 78% of State Program CEOs feel that Project UNIFY has challenged preconceived notions that Special Olympics is a segregated organization
- 81% believe Project UNIFY has raised awareness that Special Olympics supports social inclusion.
- 74% of State Programs involved youth leaders on state-level boards and regional or district committees (91% for Category 1 schools, 67% for Category 2 schools)
- There are 23 state level Education Leaders Networks (made up of district and state level education officials, principals, education organizations/associations representatives)
- 53% of State Programs organized state-wide or regional meetings with Education leaders networks (ELN) (91% for Category 1 schools, 37% for Category 2 schools)

Value/Satisfaction of Project UNIFY to the Schools**:

Project UNIFY is raising awareness about students with disabilities, providing opportunities for students with ID to get involved in school activities, and providing opportunities for students with and without ID to work together in socially inclusive activities. Percentages are consistent over 2 years of data.

- 65% of school liaisons observed that Project UNIFY helps raise awareness about students with ID
- 64% of school liaisons observed that Project UNIFY increases opportunities for students with and without ID to work together
- 58% of school liaisons observed that Project UNIFY increases opportunities for students with ID to get involved in school activities
- 92% of school liaisons said they find Project UNIFY valuable to their school as a whole
- 84% of school liaisons said that Project UNIFY was successful at their schools

In Year 4 School Administrators were also surveyed

- 75% of administrators surveyed reported increased participation of students with ID in school activities
- 70% of administrators surveyed reported increased opportunities for students with and without ID to interact during the school day as a result of Project UNIFY
- 63% of the school administrators agreed that Project UNIFY helps create a more inclusive climate in the school, in which students are open to and accepting of differences, and that it increases the sense of community in the school.
- 71% of the administrators in particular observed that Project UNIFY impacts the behaviors and attitudes of students without disabilities toward their peers with ID.
- 58% of school administrators viewed Project UNIFY as having an impact on reducing bullying, teasing or the use of offensive language in their schools.

Investment Measures*:

- **Total National Expenditure:** \$8,078,810
 - **Average state cost per school:** \$2,155
 - **Average total project cost per school:** \$3,758
 - **Cost per student:** \$9.81 total project cost per youth experience²

²This Year 4 info average is based on a total \$8,078,810 investment in 823,462 exposed youth encompassing a wide range of engagement levels, from minimal exposure of 598,646 youth at rallies and serving as Fans in the Stands, and 158,402 having an engaged experience in sports activities or as youth leaders.

*Data collected by SOI, as reported in school year end reports by 42 U.S. state SO Programs receiving funding in Year 3 and by 38 U.S. state SO Programs receiving funding in Year 4.

**Evaluation data collected by UMass Boston, as reported by 954 school liaisons in High Activation and Building Bridges states in Year 3; in Year 4 as reported by 1,073 school liaisons in High Activation and Building Bridges states.

***This represents Evaluation data collected by UMass Boston, as reported by students in 25 selected exemplary schools in High Activation states in Year 3, and as reported by students in 52 selected exemplary schools in High Activation states in Year 4.