

The Impact of Unified Schools Around the World

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STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

**Special
Olympics**



Special Olympics Unified Schools promote meaningful social inclusion by bringing young people with and without intellectual disability (ID) together to create school communities that are accepting of all students using an inclusive sports model, Special Olympics Unified Sports®.

Special Olympics has expanded Unified Schools programming in 22 countries around the world through the Play Unified: Learn Unified initiative supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). Below are the transformative results from an evaluation of Unified Schools conducted in four diverse country settings: China, Greece, India, and Kenya.



Improved **attitudes and behaviors** towards students with ID



Over 2 out of 3 students without ID experienced “a lot of positive change” in their interactions with students with ID.

Over 4 out of 5 students with ID in

China and Greece felt positively about their overall treatment in school.



Over 90% of students without ID in India and Kenya reported their behavior changed as a result of Unified Schools programming.



Improved all students' **social-emotional learning** skills



80% of students without ID in India and Kenya reported improved social-emotional skill development after participating in Unified Schools.

Students in Greece reported they are now

9X more likely

to believe they can learn from people who are different from them.

Over 50% of students without ID in China reported improved social-emotional skill development after participating in Unified Schools.



Created an **inclusive school climate** for all students

Over 4 out of 5 teachers

in India and Kenya reported an improved sense of community.



Over 3 out of 4 students with and

without ID in India and Kenya reported a positive school climate and awareness of social inclusion.

94% of schools

reported that Unified Schools made a big impact in reducing bullying, teasing, and offensive language in their schools.

