PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

7,329 SCHOOLS

2,795 DISTRICTS

49 STATES + DC and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

567 BANNER SCHOOLS

218,981 SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

8.3M TOTAL INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

567 schools across the country have reached national banner status through the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (SOUCS) National Recognition Program since its inception in 2016. These schools demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence.

OFFERED AT LEAST TWO COMPONENTS

Special Olympics Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, & whole school engagement

71%

17,790 TEACHERS EDUCATED

about SOUCS programming and social inclusion in schools 15% increase despite COVID-19 challenges

FUNDING

SOUCS is funded in large part by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. From 2008–2021, over the 13 years of Unified Champion Schools programming, $133 million in funding has been received from OSEP. Special Olympics state Programs, through their Fundraising efforts, have contributed $142 million in cash and VIK.

$275M 2008–2021

$133M From the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs

$142M From Special Olympics State Programs

This report is for the 2020–2021 school year, thus reflecting engagement during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. While some of these numbers show slight reductions from the previous year due to the decrease and/or cancellation of many in-person activities, overall engagement has continued to grow. These numbers show the resilience of educators and students, and enduring dedication to inclusion.

Updated Dec 2021