



Special Olympics  
Unified Champion  
Schools®

# Research Overview



**95%** of Unified Champion Schools (UCS) liaisons felt that the UCS program has created a **more socially inclusive school environment** and **99%** felt the UCS program is **valuable for the school** as a whole



**90%** of liaisons indicated that the Unified Champion Schools program reduces bullying, teasing, and use of offensive language in the school



**95%** of liaisons reported **increased participation** of students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in school activities, leading to more **inclusive attitudes** school-wide

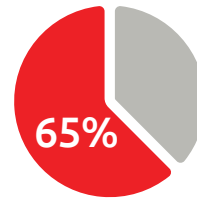


Participating in Special Olympics **Unified Sports®** (64%) or a

**Unified Club** (76%) provides high school students with opportunities to get to know a peer with ID which in turn leads to **friendship**



More students who participated in the UCS program believed they had a **friend at school** to help them through a hard time (78%) compared to students not in the UCS program



Two-thirds (65%) of high school students stated that the **strong relationships** they developed with their peers with ID was one of the best parts of participating in the UCS program

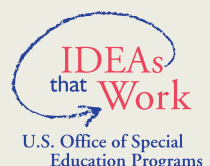


**100%** of teachers said the UCS program eased the transition from middle to high school by **fostering a sense of belonging, building relationships, and providing continuity for students over time**



Students who participate in the UCS program feel more supported by their teachers and peers, have **higher levels of grit, receive better grades, and are more empathetic and compassionate**

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U.S. Office of Special Education Programs