



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

Research Overview



97% of Unified Champion Schools (UCS) liaisons felt that the UCS program has created a **more socially inclusive school environment**



94% of liaisons indicated that the Unified Champion Schools program has made **a big impact in reducing bullying**, teasing, and offensive language in their schools



97% of liaisons reported **increased participation** of students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in school activities, leading to more **inclusive attitudes** school-wide

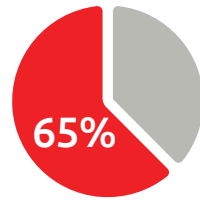


Participating in Special Olympics **Unified Sports®** (64%) or a

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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