



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2018

Contact: Karen Whitman, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
KWhitman@soiowa.org | 515-986-5520

Special Olympics International Chairman Timothy Shriver to Visit Des Moines Public Schools

Grimes, Iowa – Special Olympics Iowa, along with Des Moines Public Schools welcome Special Olympics International Chairman Timothy Shriver and members of the Special Olympics North America (SONA) team to Des Moines on January 8.

“The purpose of this visit is to recognize the many great things that are beginning to happen with Des Moines Public Schools as an Urban Unified School District,” said Bryan Coffey, Special Olympics Iowa Director of Unified Programs. “I am excited to be witnessing Des Moines Public Schools emerge as a leader of the Inclusion Revolution.”

Shriver’s visit to Des Moines will include a pep rally, student round-table discussions and an evening reception. The pep rally is expected to have about 300 students in attendance and will give Shriver, members of the SONA team and Ray Roberts, retired Seattle Seahawks Football player, opportunities to visit with the students.

Special Olympics North America, along with Special Olympics Iowa, are looking forward to tracking the Des Moines Public Schools’ progress as a whole and as smaller student groups over the next few years. As Des Moines Public Schools make strides as a Unified Champion School program, they will become a model for other school districts across the country.

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities through education, sports and youth leadership to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance and respect.

For more information and scheduling contact Karen Whitman at KWhitman@soiowa.org or 515-986-5520.

###

Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA), a statewide nonprofit organization, provides high-quality training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in all 99 counties of Iowa. SOIA offers 23 Olympic-style sports to more than 14,000 athletes and Unified partners year-round.

Since 1968, Special Olympics has provided an inclusive culture that stresses athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates personal achievement. Through Special Olympics sports training and competition, children and adults with intellectual disabilities reach their full potential and experience inclusion in their communities every day.