

National Recognition Program Middle/High Application Review Rubric

Please use this rubric when reviewing each National Recognition Program application. The school needs to meet all ten standards in order to receive recognition as a Banner School. If the school exceeds many of the standards, they will be considered for a national banner presentation by one of our sponsors. If their response indicates that they are below or approaching the standard, that information can be used for feedback to help them improve.

Special Olympics Unified Sports®

A fully inclusive sports or fitness program that combines an approximately equal number of students with and without intellectual disabilities. Examples include such things as Interscholastic Unified Sports, Unified PE, Unified Fitness or Unified Intramurals.

Recognition Standard	Below Standard	Approaching Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
1. Unified Sports is offered in at least 2 seasons throughout the school year.	No evidence provided of when or how frequently Unified Sports is offered.	Unified Sports are offered in only one season throughout the school year.	Unified Sports (such as Unified PE, Unified Fitness, Unified Intramurals, Unified sports events) are offered in at least two seasons.	Students in all grade levels have multiple opportunities to participate in Unified Sports. Unified Sports are a norm for the school and reflected in all sports and fitness opportunities.
2. Unified Sports participation occurs regularly over the course of each sport season or school term and includes competition.	Unified Sports are offered as one-time events without training or practice sessions.	Unified Sports and/or activities occur regularly over the course of the school year, but there is no competition.	Unified Sports and/or activities occur regularly over the course of the school year and include competition.	Multiple Unified Sports and/or activities occur throughout the school year, like any other sport/activity the school offers and include competitions that engage the whole school.
3. An adult coach for each sport who has received training on Special	No evidence provided of adult coach(s) receiving any	There is 1+ adult coach(es) who has received training on Unified Sports	Each sport has an adult coach who has received training through	Each sport has an adult coach who has received coaches training through

Olympics Unified Sports.	training on Unified Sports.	but not all adult coaches.	Special Olympics at the state or national level on Unified Sports.	Special Olympics at the state or national level on Unified Sports and has taken additional training (e-learning or in person) offered at the national or state level.
4. Unified Sports is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other athletics/activities.	No evidence provided of Special Olympics programming being officially recognized.	Special Olympics programing is acknowledged by the school, but not on the same level as other sports. For example, Unified Sports is the only sport in the school not a part of a pep rally.	Special Olympics programming is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other sports/activities.	Special Olympics programming is officially recognized by the school and the school district in a similar style as other sports/activities.

NOTES (optional):

Inclusive Youth Leadership

Students with and without intellectual disabilities work to lead advocacy, awareness, inclusion and other Special Olympics activities throughout the school year. Examples include such things as Unified Clubs, inclusive student councils or similar types of inclusive student groups.

Recognition Standard	Below Standard	Approaching Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
5. A Unified Club or student group offers leadership opportunities/training for students with and without intellectual disabilities (ID).	No evidence provided of students with or without ID having leadership roles or training.	Students without ID are given more leadership training and opportunities to lead than their peers with ID.	It is clear that both students with and students without ID are given leadership training and opportunities to lead.	Students of all abilities are given frequent, varied opportunities to lead in meaningful ways (i.e., Team Captain is filled by students with and without ID equally, students with and without intellectual disabilities lead Unified activities).
6. The inclusive club/group meets at least once per month throughout the school year.	No evidence provided of reoccurring Unified Club (or other) meeting throughout the school year.	Unified Club (or other) meetings occur somewhat regularly over the course of the school year for social purposes only.	Unified Club (or other) meetings occur regularly over the course of the school year for social and leadership activities.	Unified Club meetings occur regularly over the course of the school year with both in-school and out-of-school leadership and social opportunities.
7. The inclusive club/group has an adult liaison and is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other clubs/activities.	No evidence provided of an adult liaison nor recognition of the club by the school.	There is an adult liaison, but the club is not formally recognized by the school.	There is an adult liaison, and the club has full recognition by the school and is included in all promotion and activities as every club is.	There is an adult liaison who has received training through Special Olympics, and the club has full recognition by the school.

NOTES (optional)

Whole School Engagement

Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach the majority of the school population. Examples include such things as Spread the Word to End the Word (R-Word) Campaign, Pep Rallies or “Fans in the Stands” for Unified Sports teams, Respect Campaigns or student fundraising.

Recognition Standard	Below Standard	Approaching Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
8. At least two whole-school engagement activities are implemented per school year.	No evidence provided of any whole-school engagement activities in the school year.	Only one whole-school engagement activity took place in the school year.	Two or more whole-school engagement activities took place in the school year.	Multiple whole-school engagement activities took place during the school year that integrated into related school priorities and provided evidence that inclusion is a norm for the school.
9. Students with and without disabilities are involved with planning and leading the awareness activities.	No evidence that students were engaged with adults in planning or leading awareness activities.	Students had roles in engagement activities (e.g. acting as hosts), but were not included in the planning process.	Members of the Unified Club (or other) worked with adults to plan and lead awareness activities.	Members of the Unified Club (or other) planned and lead multiple awareness activities for their peers. Older students mentored younger students to prepare them to lead in future activities.

NOTES (optional)

Sustainability

Strategies and plans which help ensure the three Unified Champion School components will continue into the future and truly become part of the school culture. Examples include such things as fundraising and/or Unified Champion Schools costs included in school budgets, staff training to ensure sustainability in case of turnover, and the presence of a leadership team to guide Unified Champion School strategies.

Recognition Standard	Below Standard	Approaching Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
10. The school is currently self-sustainable or has a plan in place to sustain the three components into the future.	No evidence provided of a sustainability plan.	There is evidence of sustainability in terms of fundraising but not in school personnel, or vice versa.	The response provides evidence of future sustainability through school personnel commitment and fundraising.	The response provides evidence of future sustainability through school, community and district level adult commitment and financial planning.

NOTES (optional)