

## Unified Schools & Youth Definition

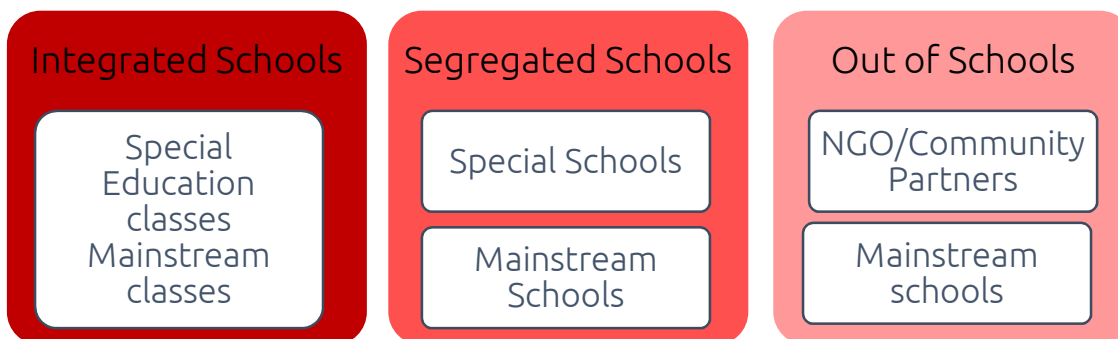
A **Unified School** is a pre-school, primary school, secondary school, college or University offering Unified Sports opportunities to its students **at least 2 times** within the calendar year.

If a non-inclusive school works with a special needs school to offer Unified Sports opportunities to students of both schools, they should be counted as two separate schools.

A **Youth Leader is an individual with or without an intellectual disability age 8-25** who is actively involved in a leadership role during the calendar year. Examples of youth leadership roles include:

- Representatives of youth advisory councils and committees
- Local Program Committee members
- Games and training organizers
- Event or fundraising organizers
- Sport Officials
- Grant project leaders
- Board members
- Coaches / assistant coaches
- Health and Fitness messengers

## Unified Schools Models



There are 3 models of Unified Schools based on 3 dominant educational situations for students with ID: integrated schools, segregated schools or out of school. The first model is for integrated schools, where students with and without ID are in the same school, even if not necessarily in the same class. The second model utilizes partnerships between segregated special schools and mainstream schools for Unified Sports and other activities. The third model creates partnerships between mainstream schools and community SO Programs or a partner NGO. It can be used in places where most students with ID are currently not in school at all or have no educational opportunities after early primary school.

All models bring youth with and without ID together in a school setting to play Unified Sports and teach inclusion and acceptance.

## Unified Schools Programming Options

Unified Sports is a requirement to be considered a Unified School. This can be any of the models of Unified Sports: from competitive interscholastic sports to recreational Unified Physical Education. Other components of Unified Schools, Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement, are highly encouraged and the model maximizes impact when they are used together.

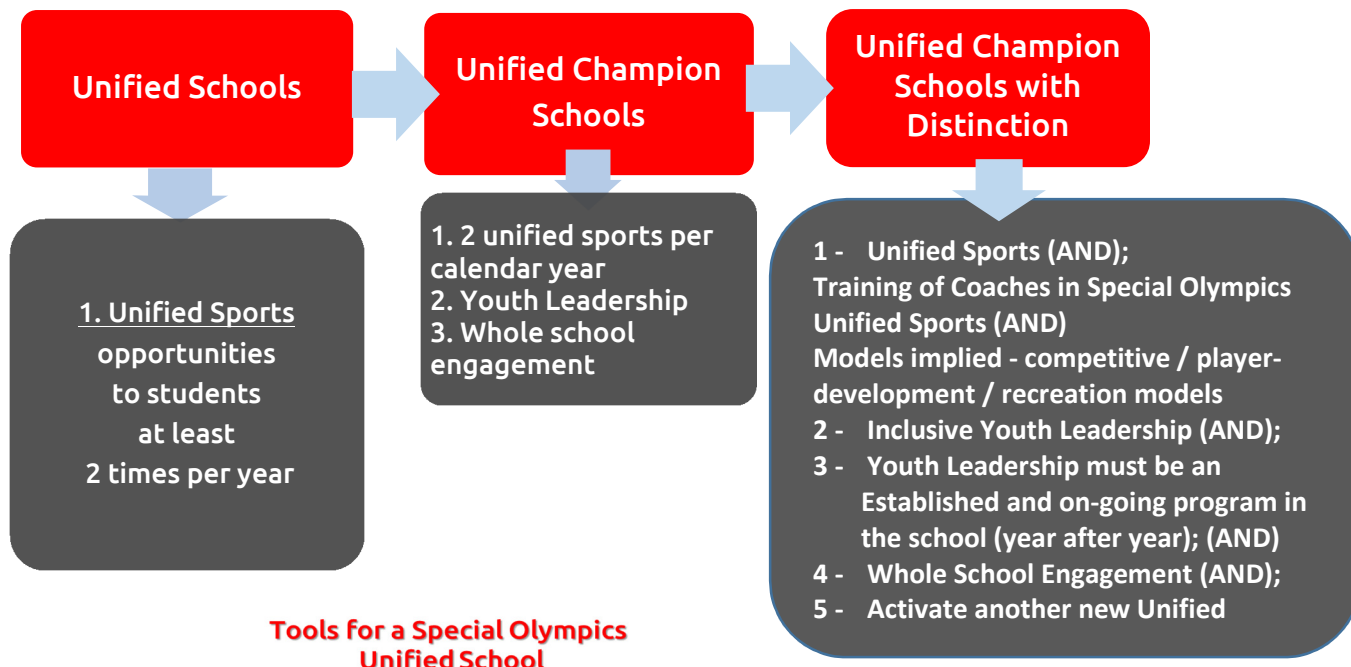
A **Unified Champion School** is a school or university that promotes inclusion by implementing activities in **each of five components within a calendar year**: 1) **Unified Sports** (training of coaches in Special Olympics

Unified Sports AND models implied – competitive / player-development / recreation models) 2) Youth Leadership AND 3) **Whole School Engagement**.

A **Unified Champion Schools Distinction Award** is a recognition awarded to a School which fulfils the criterion of a Unified School and Unified Champion School along with additional activities including reaching out to a new school

If a general education school forms a partnership with a special education school, count these as two separate Unified Champion Schools (students of both schools must be involved).

Programs can select and adapt programming options that will best fit with how sports or extracurricular activities work in schools within their cultural context.



## What Unified Schools Is and Is Not

### Unified Schools is...

- ✓ A school that offers Unified Sports opportunities to its students\*
- ✓ A partnership between a mainstream school and a special education school or a community organization serving youth with ID
- ✓ Includes students both with and without ID
- ✓ Engages youth leaders together with school administrators and teachers
- ✓ Has a sustainability plan
- ✓ Is connected to the Special Olympics Program or Sub-Program

\*This can be any of the models of Unified Sports: Competitive, Player-Development, and or Recreation

### Unified Schools is NOT ...

- ✗ A school that does not offer Unified Sports opportunities
- ✗ A school that once did Unified Sports in the past but is no longer active
- ✗ A special school only involved in traditional SO training or competition
- ✗ A school that has a partnership with a SO Program but does not offer Unified Sports
- ✗ Students from a school volunteering at SO events in the community
- ✗ SO Programs holding an event using school facilities with no involvement of students or teachers
- ✗ A school that has a relationship with another SO Program partner organization but does not offer Unified Sports
- ✗ Rogue students or teachers working on their own