



Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® Case Study Videos

“Meet the Unified Generation”

Introduction:

Over the past couple of months, the Unified Champion Schools team has been traveling around the United States with content production partner ClickOn Media capturing stories about the amazing students, faculty, and community members that make up Unified Champion Schools. This has resulted in the creation of many amazing videos that have been shared ahead of the back to school season as a social media campaign!

Some stats...

- In Year 9, school staff that were empowered to implement the UCS program reported the UCS program created a more socially inclusive school environment (94%), increased opportunities for students to work together (95%), raised awareness about students with ID (94%), increased the participation of students with ID in school activities (92%), and reduced bullying, teasing, and offensive language (88%).
- Students without ID reported they enjoyed the time they spent together (89%), strongly felt they could work through disagreements (80%), and would miss this friend if they no longer attended the same school (76%).

There are three goals that we aimed for these videos to accomplish:

1. Provide awareness to external audiences that Special Olympics has a great presence in schools.
2. Provide a new type of resource to help Special Olympics Programs recruit more Unified Champion Schools.
3. Drive people to our new site: www.generationunified.org

Three-Component Case Studies:

Thanks to the Unified Generation, over 6,000 schools around the country are centers of inclusion. With sports as the foundation, the three component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions. This is accomplished by implementing inclusive sports, inclusive youth leadership opportunities, and whole school engagement.

The following case studies were created to showcase how different schools implement these three components. Each component is critical on its own, but together they make a truly inclusive Unified Champion School.



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Whole-School Engagement: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/learn-unified/>

Inclusive Youth Leadership: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/inclusive-youth-leadership-case-study/>

Unified Sports® and Unified PE: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/unified-sports-physical-education/>

Community/Population Case Studies:

While the Unified Champion Schools program is structured in its planning and implementation, it is important to note that one size does not fit all! The program is designed to be woven into the fabric of the school, enhancing current efforts and providing rich opportunities that lead to meaningful change in creating a socially inclusive school that supports and engages all learners. What a Unified Champion School “looks like” can vary greatly from school to school, based on the needs, goals, schedules and other factors unique to each school; but the basic building blocks remain the same.

The following case studies focus on three separate schools to highlight UCS programming in an urban, suburban, and rural setting, respectively: Washington High School in Phoenix, Arizona; Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, Texas; and Mead High School in Longmont, Colorado. These case studies were designed primarily as a resource for schools interesting in implementing the UCS program to show how the foundations of the program can be built into any school, no matter the setting.

Urban: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/meet-the-unified-generation-washington-hs/>

Suburban: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/meet-the-unified-generation-alamo-heights-high-school/>

Rural: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/meet-the-unified-generation-mead-high-school/>

Miscellaneous Portraits:

In the planning and creation of the above videos, four unique portraits took form. Each of these four portraits focuses on a specific story: that of brothers in an inclusive school, a Special Olympics superstar and Chief Inspiration Officer, an entrepreneurial student in Rhode Island, and a Special Olympics athlete and X-Games star. These four stories deep dive into what makes inclusion so essential; in fact, not all of these subjects have always experienced true inclusion in their lives. Hearing from their multiple viewpoints really drives home why inclusion must be the golden standard in our schools and our society.



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Jay and Evan, Ponaganset High School:

<https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/meet-the-unified-generation-ponaganset-high-school/>

Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics Chief Inspiration Officer:

<https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/loretta-claiborne-inspires-the-unified-generation%E2%96%B6/>

Kate DeCotis: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/kate-decotis-portrait/>

Daina Shilts: <https://www.generationunified.org/portfolio/daina-shilts-embraces-the-unified-generation%E2%96%B6/>