

General Exhibits

March 7, 2023



Unified Champion Schools Memorandum of Understanding

Special Olympics Pennsylvania and Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School

This Memorandum of Understanding summarizes the partnership being created between Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) and Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School for the development of a Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program designed to lead to more inclusive and accepting school environments. The three components are Interscholastic Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement.

These programs will be offered in Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School, and the length of the agreement is from the date of the signing of this MOU through June 30, 2023. A new Memorandum of Understanding will be updated for each subsequent year of the partnership.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

During the 2022-23 school year, Special Olympics Pennsylvania will provide funding support, technical guidance through dedicated staff, and resources to Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School. These will support the Unified Champion Schools program which consists of Interscholastic Unified Track and Field, inclusive youth leadership, and whole school engagement activities.

- Expenditures covered include:
 - Unified Track and Field coach stipend of \$1,500 payable to the school district to be distributed among one or more coaches.
 - One shot put, three mini javelins and two relay batons, two coaches' shirts, and 25 Unified track and field competition uniforms with the school's name and colors, which will become the property of the high school. The school is responsible for the secure storage of these items for use in future years, and agrees to replace any missing equipment or uniforms.
 - Training and resource materials on youth leadership, whole school engagement activities, and Unified Sports.
 - Spread the Word: Inclusion awareness campaign promotional materials and supplies.
 - If the school's team advances to the Interscholastic Unified Track and Field State Championships, all housing, meals, and onsite costs are paid by SOPA. The school district is responsible for providing bus transportation.
- SOPA will provide technical guidance and resource support to ensure the successful implementation of the Unified Champion Schools program components. These include:
 - Unified Sports® training courses conducted for coaches and other interested personnel, as well as resource guides and access to free online instructional materials and videos.
 - A SOPA liaison assigned to your high school to support Unified Sports coaches, faculty advisors, and youth leaders.
 - How to conduct a minimum of three whole school engagement activities during the year aimed at promoting inclusion, raising awareness, and improving overall school climate. This includes materials and guidance on conducting a student-driven respect and awareness campaign entitled "Spread the Word: Inclusion."
 - Strategies and resources for creating an inclusive youth leadership Unified Club or, if one already exists, information and guidance provided on how to promote co-leadership.
 - A regional youth summit for student leaders and faculty advisors will be conducted which focuses on inclusive leadership, organization, and effective communication.
 - Access to extensive online videos, instructional materials, and best practices from schools around the country and in Pennsylvania.

