

Special Olympics Washington **Unified Champion Schools**



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Unified Champion Schools

Unified Schools: What & Why?



A strategy to **activate** youth, **engage** educators, and **promote** school communities of acceptance and inclusion where **all young people are agents of change**.

Utilizing the sports and education initiatives of Special Olympics, Unified Schools:

- **Fosters respect and dignity** for people with intellectual disabilities
- **Changes actions and attitudes** among their peers without intellectual disabilities.
- Promotes **social inclusion** for all and a positive **school climate**





School-wide Unified



Unified Sports



School Youth Leadership

Inclusion Talk:

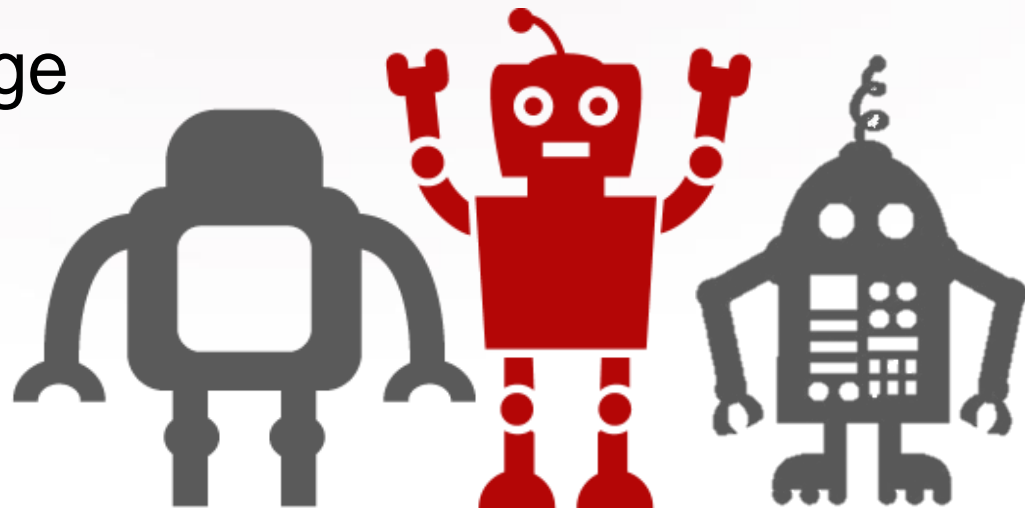


What is it?

Being a part of what everyone else is, being welcomed and embraced as a member who belongs.

3 Ways to help make your school more inclusive:

1. Age Appropriateness
2. Dignity of Risk
3. Person First Language



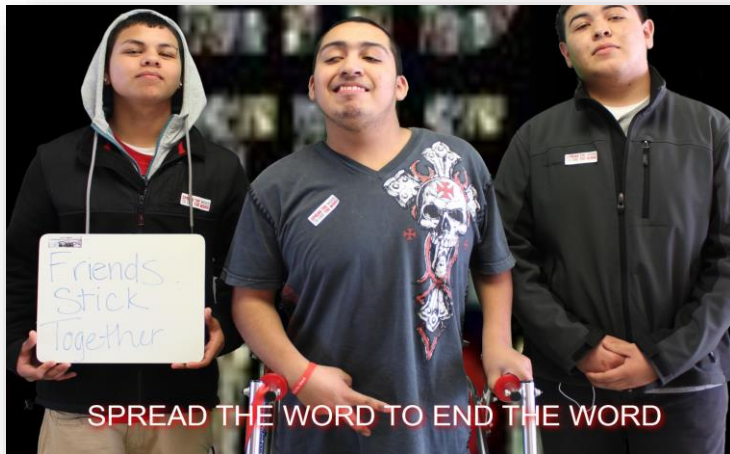
Who is an age appropriate partner?



- Are we **mentors**?
- Are we **coaches**?
- Are we doing **charity**?

A partner is a **teammate**, not a **coach**.

A **friend**, not a **mentor**.

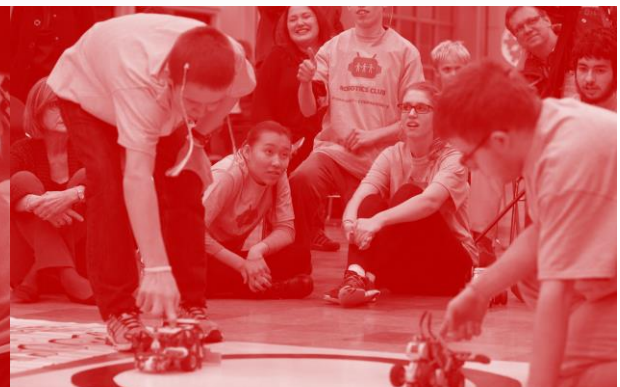
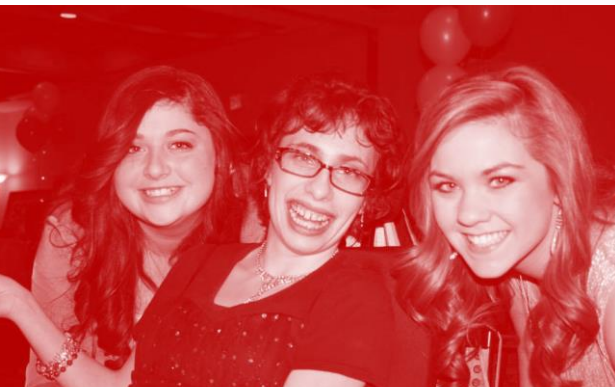


Unified activities exist to benefit all of us – partners and athletes alike. This is not charity work, this is social justice. Inclusion is important for all of us, not just those with disabilities.

Dignity of Risk



1. **Offer** to help, **don't assume**
2. **Ask** for clarification if you don't understand someone's speech
3. **Share** your feelings if someone does or says something inappropriate
4. **Independence is precious.**



Instead of **that**, say **this** 😊



He's autistic

He has Autism

She's learning disabled

She has a learning disability

She's Downs

She has Down Syndrome

They're normal/typical players

They are players without disabilities

They're disabled

They have disabilities

He's handicapped

He has a physical disability

She's in a wheelchair/wheelchair bound

She uses a wheelchair

He's paraplegic

He has paraplegia

“People First Language (PFL) represents more respectful, accurate ways of communicating. People with disabilities are not their diagnoses or disabilities; **they are people, first.**”