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.
 - o 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.
 - O 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.

Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School

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Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School agrees to the following in support of the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program:

- Abide by the requirements outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding and any applicable Special Olympics Pennsylvania policies, sports rules, and program deadlines.
- Ensure school's teacher/chaperone to student ratio policies are adhered to at all times. If the school decides to participate in an overnight travel event, there is a required 4:1 student to chaperone ratio. Additionally, any overnight events will follow SOPA's Housing Policy governing room assignments (available at www.specialolympicspa.org).
- Ensure background checks are completed for all coaches and volunteers in accordance with Pennsylvania's state legal requirements. School will provide a copy of its background check policy to SOPA if requested.
- Interscholastic Unified Sports: Have a high school Interscholastic Unified Track and Field team which has a proportional number of Special Olympics-eligible athletes (defined as students with an intellectual disability, cognitive delay, or developmental disability including many types of autism) and students without an intellectual disability. Only students enrolled in the 9th-12th grades are eligible, including any up to the age of 21 receiving services from the school district.
 - The team practices after school a minimum of twice a week for 10 weeks. First practices begin the week of March 6 in conjunction with the official start of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association spring sports season.
 - Additionally, the high school's Unified Track and Field team participates in a minimum of three competitions which include a culminating county or regional championship event.
 The school district is responsible for providing transportation for the competitions.
 - Coaches are required to complete the free Special Olympics Unified Sports online course and attend the in-person Unified Track and Field training. They also agree to fulfill the responsibilities in the SOPA coach's job description.
- Inclusive Youth Leadership: There is a structured inclusive youth leadership club co-led by students with and without intellectual disabilities. It may be a new Unified Club or an existing group. This club meets at least once or twice per month and organizes activities to improve school climate and promote acceptance and respect.
- Whole School Engagement: Have a minimum of three whole school engagement activities
 which are organized by students and focus on inclusion, respect, and improved school climate.
 Technical support will be provided by SOPA staff, as well as funding resources for materials as
 defined in the previous section.
- Ensure success through the involvement and support of the high school's principal, athletic director, special education director, teachers, and staff for the UCS program.
- Complete and submit mid-term and year-end reporting requirements for a United States
 Department of Education Unified Champion Schools grant that provides partial funding support.

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Matt Aaron President and CEO	Date	Signature	Date	
Special Olympics Pennsylvania		Name:		
		Title:		
		For Hanover Area	For Hanover Area Jr/Sr High School	