

2025-26 SONJ UCS Funding Application

We are excited to once again provide the opportunity for eligible New Jersey schools to apply for funding to support Unified initiatives for the 2025-26 school year.

Please be sure to visit our Application Dashboard prior to completing this application.

Please submit a separate form for each school.

Self-sustaining schools - please indicate your self-funded status where requested. You will be offered an abridged application.

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

Application Information

2. Name of person completing application *

3. I am completing this application with the knowledge and consent of relevant administrators within my school and/or district. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Agreed

School Information

4. **School Name** *

(please enter your entire school name, i.e. Ramsey High School, not RHS):

5. **School District** *

(please enter your entire district name, i.e. West Milford Township Public Schools, not WMTPS or West Milford):

6. **School Mailing Address** *

7. **School Zip Code:** *

8. Grades at your school: **Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Pre-K
- ☐ Kindergarten
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4
- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 10
- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12
- ☐ Beyond grade 12

9. How many students are enrolled in your school? *

10. School NCES Number

*

You can search here: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>

11. How many years has your school received UCS funding? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ This is our first year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 4-5 years
- ☐ 6-7 years
- ☐ More than 7 years
- ☐ I don't know. Less than 5 years, I think.
- ☐ I don't know. 5 years or more, I think.
- ☐ We have been self-funded for some time.

School Contact Information**12. Principal Name ***

13. Principal Email Address *

14. Superintendent Name *

15. Superintendent Email Address *

16. Business Administrator Name *

17. Business Administrator Email Address *

School Leadership Team

Each

Unified Champion School is required to have a school leadership team in place. The SLT is, at minimum, composed of two student leaders (one with and one without an intellectual disability), two staff liaisons, and a school administrator, all of whom are dedicated to supporting UCS activities and creating a culture of inclusion.

18. Primary School Liaison Name

This is the person who will receive the majority of the communication from the UCS team and will be held accountable for completion of monthly reports and other required submissions.

19. School Liaison Email**20. School Liaison's Role within School ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Social Worker/Case Manager
- ☐ Director of Special Services or equivalent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Other: _____

21. **School Co-Liaison Name ***

22. **School Co-Liaison Email ***

23. **School Co-Liaison's Role within School ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Social Worker/ Case Manager
- ☐ Director of Special Services or equivalent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Other:

24. **School Administrator Name ***

25. **School Administrator Email ***

26. School Administrator Role Within School *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Director of Special Services (or equivalent)
- ☐ Athletic Director
- ☐ Business Administrator
- ☐ Other School Administrator
- ☐ Superintendent
- ☐ Other: _____

27. The UCS Grant requires that at least two student leaders serve on your school's leadership team. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ I understand.

28. If there are individuals on your School Leadership Team that are not listed above, please provide their name(s), email address(es), and role(s) within the school here. *

Three Components of UCS

Special

Olympics Unified Champion Schools is a three-component model that combines Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement to create climates of acceptance and inclusion.

29. **In order to receive financial support from Special Olympics New Jersey, my school commits to satisfactorily implement the three components of UCS.** *

Check all that apply.

☐ Agreed

30. **Does your Unified Sports team and/or Unified Club have their own social media account(s)? If so, please share your platforms and handles.** *

31. **How will your school promote your Unified activities, events, and opportunities to your students, faculty, and community members?** *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Unified Sports listed on school website
- ☐ Unified Club listed on school website
- ☐ Social media posts about Unified Sports
- ☐ Social media posts about Unified Club
- ☐ Morning announcements will mention Unified
- ☐ Unified will be mentioned in school newspaper
- ☐ Unified will be included in school yearbook
- ☐ Unified will be recognized at school rallies
- ☐ Unified will be included in emails to parents/guardians/etc
- ☐ Bulletin Boards
- ☐ Newsletters
- ☐ Other: _____

Unified Sports

Students with and without intellectual disabilities train and play together on the same team or in the same class in approximately equal numbers.

32. **What Unified Sports opportunities will your students be involved in? ***
Choose all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Interscholastic Sports Team(s) - playing against other schools
- ☐ Intramural Sports Team(s) - playing recreationally with no competitions
- ☐ Unified PE - offered during at least 1 grading period
- ☐ Field Day or Game Day
- ☐ eSports
- ☐ Fitness activities or demonstrations
- ☐ Unified Recess (Elementary School only)
- ☐ Young Athletes (Grades K-2 only; do not select for grade levels above 2)
- ☐ Developmental Sports (grades 3-5 or 3-6)

33. **If offering interscholastic sports (competing against other schools), what sports does your school plan to offer (Middle and High School only)? ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Soccer
- ☐ Bowling
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Track and Field
- ☐ Kickball
- ☐ Flag Football
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Not offering interscholastic sports
- ☐ Other: _____

34. **For each Unified Sport you plan to offer, please describe your school's Unified Sports plan for implementation.**

How often will you practice/meet?

How many competitions do you plan to have?

How will you recruit participants?

Inclusive Youth Leadership

Young people of all abilities are given training and opportunities to be leaders in their schools and communities.

35. **What Inclusive Youth Leadership opportunities will your students be involved in? Please choose all that apply.** *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Unified Club
- ☐ Inclusive School Leadership Clubs (Student Council, National Honor Society, etc.)
- ☐ Young Athletes (Grades K-2)
- ☐ Other: _____

36. **Please describe your school's Inclusive Youth Leadership plan.**

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How often will your club meet?

What activities will your club do?

How will students with and without intellectual disabilities make decisions, advocate for themselves, and provide awareness and advocacy for all students?

Whole School Engagement

Activities that foster understanding and respect for all and positively impact school climate by including all students, teachers, staff, and administrators; they are planned and executed by students with and without disabilities.

37. **What Whole School Engagement opportunities will your students be involved in? ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Awareness campaigns such as Spread the Word, Choose to Include, World Down Syndrome Day, or Autism Acceptance
- ☐ Respect Campaign/Rally
- ☐ Fans in the Stands; a coordinated effort to have students and community members attend every Unified game
- ☐ Hosting a Unified Sports competition / game / event during the school day; most of the student body attends
- ☐ Fundraising event or campaign for your school's Unified activities
- ☐ Fundraising event or campaign for SONJ
- ☐ Unified Sports teams will be introduced and recognized at school assemblies and/or pep rallies
- ☐ School or district social media features Unified Sports or Unified Clubs
- ☐ Unified has its own social media account(s)
- ☐ Morning announcements (or equivalent) frequently mention Unified and/or include a message of inclusion
- ☐ Other: _____

38. **Please describe your school's Whole School Engagement plan. ***

What will be offered? When? Who will be involved?

Self-Sustainability

UCS

grants are intended to be used to get your Unified programs up and running so your school and district can see the many benefits and impacts within the school. The goal is that the school/district will eventually fully fund these Unified opportunities.

39. **How much funding do you anticipate your school/district providing to Unified initiatives for the 2025-26 school year?** *

Please include specific amounts.

For example -

\$10,000 total (\$5,000 for coach stipends, \$2,500 for transportation, \$2,500 for supplies and uniforms)

40. **How much money do you anticipate fundraising for your 2025-26 Unified initiatives?**

Please include specifics.

For example -

Cool Schools Challenge in November (\$1000 expected)

Car wash in March (\$400 expected)

41. **How do you plan to reduce dependency on SONJ UCS funding beyond the 2025-26 school year?**

*

42. **Additional comments about self-sustainability**

Budget

Please visit our Grant Application Dashboard and review the “For Review Prior to Applying” section prior to completing your application.

Each pillar of UCS (Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement) has its own section for budgeting.

43. **Are you requesting funding for the 2025-26 school year? ***

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes. Please continue the application.
- ☐ No, we're self-funded. Congrats - you're finished with the application!

Unified Sports Expenses

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

44. **Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Itemized Budget ***

For Example:

Basketball Coach \$750

Track Coach \$750

Assistant Track Coach \$500

45. **Unified Sports Coach Stipends - Total Amount Requested ***

46. **Unified Sports Facility Rental - Itemized Budget ***

For Example:

4 practices at Bowlero at \$100 each

47. **Unified Sports Facility Rental - Total Amount Requested ***

Available only to interscholastic teams

48. **Unified Sports Transportation - Itemized Budget ***

For Example:

4 practices at Bowlero \$280

(only available for interscholastic Unified teams)

49. **Unified Sports Transportation - Total Amount Requested ***

(only available for interscholastic Unified teams)

50. **Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Itemized Budget**

*

(available for up to 3 competitions per interscholastic Unified sports team)

51. **Unified Sports Officials' Fees - Total Amount Requested** *
- (available for up to 3 competitions per interscholastic Unified sports team)*
-

52. **Unified Sports Supplies - Itemized Budget** *

Please do not include t-shirts in this category

53. **Unified Sports Supplies - Total Amount Requested** *

Please do not include t-shirts in this category

Inclusive Youth Leadership (Club) Expenses

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

54. **Club Advisor Stipends - Total Amount Requested** *
-

55. **Club Advisor Stipends - Itemized Budget** *
-

56. Club / IYL Supplies - Total Amount Requested *

Limits include:

Up to \$100 for non-durable goods

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

57. Club / IYL Supplies - Itemized Budget *

Limits include:

Up to \$100 for non-durable goods

Please do not include t-shirts in this category.

58. Club / IYL T-Shirts - Total Amount Requested *

Limits include:

Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts

59. Club / IYL T-Shirts - Itemized Budget *

Limits include:

Up to \$500 for up to 75 t-shirts

Whole School Engagement Expenses

In each of the categories below, please indicate the total amount of funding requested as well as an itemized budget.

60. **Whole School Engagement Supplies - Total Amount Requested ***

61. **Whole School Engagement Supplies - Itemized Budget ***

Total Funding

62. **Total Funding Requested ***

Should match the total of all categories above

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