



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

Research Overview



96% of Unified Champion Schools (UCS) liaisons felt that the UCS program has created a **more socially inclusive environment**, and **99%** felt the UCS program is **valuable for the school** as a whole



92% of liaisons indicated that the Unified Champion Schools Program **reduces bullying, teasing, and use of offensive language** in the school



95% of liaisons reported **increased participation** of students with intellectual disabilities (ID) in school activities, leading to more **inclusive attitudes** school-wide



Students who participate in the UCS program feel more supported by their teachers and peers, have higher levels of grit, receive better grades, and are **more empathetic and compassionate**



100% of teachers said the UCS program eased the transition from middle to high school by **fostering a sense of belonging, building relationships, and providing continuity for students over time**



85% of liaisons indicated that UCS programming **increases the attendance of students with ID**, with 81% indicating an increased attendance of students without ID



When schools implement UCS there are **positive impacts on academic outcomes**:

- High schools that implemented UCS had a **2.6% increase in graduation rates** for students with ID, and 1.3% increase for students without ID (compared to schools without UCS)
- Long term exposure to the UCS program is associated with **increases in standardized test scores and GPA** for middle and high schools students with and without ID

*Manuscript containing this research is still under consideration for publication as of 2/7/2022

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