



# Champions TOGETHER



## INTERSCHOLASTIC UNIFIED TRACK AND FIELD GRANTS FAQs

### **What is an interscholastic unified team?**

An athletic team comprised of high school students with and without intellectual disabilities. Teammates may all be from one school or from multiple schools. Unified Sports® give students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete as team-mates on the field of play – paving the way for social inclusion community wide.

### **Why do we need to make a two year commitment?**

In order to demonstrate that the program has the ability to sustain itself from year one with financial assistance to year two without financial assistance, we request a two year commitment and will recognize schools that meet the program requirements with a Champions Together banner.

### **What is an inclusive leadership team?**

The team, comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities, plans activities such as school-wide awareness events and fundraising projects to promote an inclusive school community.

### **What are examples of school wide awareness/respect/inclusion activities?**

Special Olympics Virginia has a number of resources available for schools to assist with this requirement.

- *R-word*: Campaign to raise people's awareness of the derogatory use of the r-word (retard or retarded) and its negative impact on people with intellectual disabilities.
- *Get into It Curriculum*: Online age-appropriate resources, including lessons, activities, videos, athlete stories and supplemental materials, for grades K – 12.
- *School Assemblies*: Educate, motivate and activate students to unleash their creative leadership potential to accept, respect, and advocate with and for individuals with disabilities.

### **Why do we need to fundraise for this program?**

Special Olympics Virginia secured a one year grant to launch Champions Together. Schools must fundraise in order to sustain the program and pay program costs such as coaches' stipends, transportation, replacement uniforms and replacement equipment.

### **Why do 25% of the funds we raise go to Special Olympics Virginia?**

Special Olympics Virginia uses the 25% to help cover the costs of running the Champions Together program.

### **I want to bring this to my school, what is the first step?**

First, be sure to have the support of your principal and your activities director. Second, contact Special Olympics Virginia to complete the intent to participate form. Your local Special Olympics Virginia Region Director will contact you to assist with the start-up of the Champions Together program.