



# Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools

## 8 Month Activation Plan

**September – Pep Rally** – Host a pep rally or piggyback off of an existing pep rally to tell your entire student body and faculty about the Unified Champion School model. Tell everyone what your hopes and dreams are as a Unified Champion School and what this can do to improve your school environment. Use this as an opportunity to get more students involved.

**October – Unified Flag Football** – Now that your varsity football games are coming to an end, schedule a Unified Flag Football event with your varsity football team to close out the football season.

**November – Tell a Neighbor** – The school liaison can write a letter to a neighboring school(s) and tell them about the Unified Champion School model. Encourage them to explore the program. Students can give quotes about their experiences and the teacher can include these quotes in the letter.

**December – Recognize an Athlete** – Recognize a Special Olympics athlete in your school and/or community each week throughout the month. Even look into having that athlete speak at your next school board meeting. They have great stories to tell about courage, training, goal setting and competing. December is also a great time to host a holiday party.

**January – Delegation Recruitment** – Use the month of January to develop a Special Olympics Iowa delegation (team). If your school is not already involved with SOIA competitions this is certainly something you should do! Learn how to GET INVOLVED in state level completions and other recreational programs that are offered!

**February – Be My Special Valentine** – Have your student leadership team surprise special needs students with flowers and “warm fuzzies.” Contact local flower shops to see if they would be willing to donate flowers for this activity, or purchase candy and make Valentine’s Day cards. Also, start a plan for next month’s Spread the Word Rally. Hang up banners and posters around school to promote respect.

**March – Spread the Word to End the Word** – Your student leadership team will make signs and have them hang all around your school to promote the STW initiative. Select a day to host your STW Day and have an exhibit table setup in the lunchroom. Encourage your fellow students to sign the online PLEDGE.

**April – Unified Basketball** – With the end of the school year quickly approaching, get your school involved in an exciting Unified Basketball game. Encourage your school’s principal, assistant principal and other faculty members to play.

