

INCLUSION

week



Join Special Olympics Iowa and Best Buddies to

EMPOWER

those around us!



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools



Are you ready?

Are you ready for Inclusion Week?

It's all happening February 27th-March 3rd!

We want to make sure you have all the tools you need to show your support! We created a packet to help you plan. In this packet, you will find

- Introductory letter explaining Inclusion Week
- Social media information
- Example of Inclusion Week displays you can recreate
- Sample of the Inclusion Week poster



Teachers and Student Leaders,

We are just a few weeks away from the start of Inclusion Week and we hope you are ready for an incredible experience! Inclusion Week is a time that we encourage your students and faculty to embrace the joys of ALL DIFFERENCES and to share in the importance of INCLUSION.

This will be the first year Special Olympics Iowa and Best Buddies have partnered together to celebrate Inclusion Week. Students and school staff state-wide have continually expressed an overwhelming positive response to this week in years past and we are excited to grow our program with Best Buddies!

This year, we have 110+ Unified Champion Schools that will be participating in Inclusion Week. These schools range from all geographic locations of the state and include elementary, middle, high schools and college levels! In addition, many of our statewide sponsors are also going to be participating in the festivities of Inclusion Week!

Whether you may use social media platforms, or another promotional sources, please know that we look forward to seeing photos and hearing your stories about the many creative ways that your school will join us in the Inclusion Week celebrations!

We look forward to another great year of celebrating Inclusion!



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Social Media

You are about to take part in an all-inclusive week and we are proud to have your involvement!

It's time to let the world know about all the good you are doing in your school! Here are some hashtags, pages, and other platforms we are using at Special Olympics Iowa!

#hashtags to use!

SpecialOlympicsIowa






InclusionWeek

PlayUnified

ChooseToInclude

EmpoWEr

Social Media accounts to tag and follow!

-   Special Olympics
-   Special Olympics Iowa
-  Special Olympics Iowa Unified Champion Schools

* Join this Facebook group and share your accomplishments with other schools in Iowa who are part of Inclusion Week (this is a great way to get ideas!)

Inclusion Week Displays

Create displays across your entire school to promote
INCLUSION and EMPOWERMENT!

Here are examples of bulletin boards and door
decorations that have been done in past years!



More Ideas!

Need more fun, inclusive ideas for your school? Try these out!



Unified Game- create teams involving students with and without disabilities to scrimmage against each other! Have the school come out and cheer them on.



Morning Messages- include an empowering message in your morning announcements! Allow students to share what inclusion or empower means to them or an empowering quote of the day.



Dress up days- create fun dress-up ideas for your school! Wacky Dress Day to show we are all different, Pajama Day to get comfy with inclusion, Dress Your Best Day to show everyone can achieve, School Pride Day to show support for all students in your school. See the attached flyer for more ideas!



Pep Assembly- gather your school for a fun assembly! Recognize your athletes, Unified partners and teachers who coordinated the week. Invite Special Olympics Iowa staff to come present.



Hallway Parade- have your Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners hold a hallway parade! Create signs, posters or “floats” to march through the hallways with. The school can cheer them on!



Unified Young Readers Club- choose an inclusive book to read every day! Read it as a class or a whole school. Discuss what you learned from the book. Check out the United Young Readers Club for ideas and lessons (scan the QR Code)!



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Poster Pledge

Pictured below is the Inclusion Week poster.

The idea of this poster is that your school would arrange this in a common area (lunchroom, cafeteria, etc.) and encourage students and staff to sign it as a pledge to inclusion. Then post a picture on social media!

EMPOWER



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

SPREAD
THE WORD
INCLUSION

"The world would be better if all people were valued, respected, embraced, included."

Special
Olympics
Iowa



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Have More Questions?

If you have any questions or need more ideas for Inclusion week, please reach out! Thanks for participating in this week. We look forward to spreading the message of inclusion across the state of Iowa!

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