



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BC INCLUSION CHAMPION SCHOOLS

**Your school can join our joyful team and
create a more inclusive world for people with and
without intellectual disabilities!**

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to working with School Districts around the province to build **Inclusive Schools** through sport and education.

Why Join Our Team

Special Olympics BC's Inclusive Schools Program gives educators a **ready-made package** of awareness and educational activities to help you promote inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and empower all students to champion inclusion. Our kit will help you engage all students and staff with fun health, fitness, sport, and community activities.

Why Champion Inclusion

Our **whole-school engagement activities** not only reach the greatest number of students, but also have the most direct impact on how students feel about social inclusion. A school climate that promotes respect for everyone can positively impact how students think and act at school, at home, and in the community.

Benefits of the SOBC Inclusive Schools Program

- **Positive interactions:** Students with and without intellectual disabilities will interact socially and develop mutually beneficial friendships.
- **Respectful attitudes:** All students will have a greater understanding of each other and will hold more positive attitudes toward each other.
- **Engagement:** The school will be a community of acceptance where students with and without intellectual disabilities feel welcome and contribute meaningfully to all school activities.
- **Connections:** The school will be an inviting environment where students, staff members, and community members feel connected. It models inclusion as a community norm.



Life Without Inclusive Schools

Many Special Olympics BC athletes with intellectual disabilities say their school experiences were painful. Many of them were invisible in their classrooms, and left out of traditional sport programs. These experiences of isolation create lasting wounds, including serious health issues. On average, even today, people with intellectual disabilities die 20 years younger than peers without IDs.

Special Olympics BC's programs help students with intellectual disabilities who aren't able to access the same physical and healthy activity options as their peers, and they help schools strengthen inclusion and respect throughout their community.

Themes of Our Tools for Inclusion Champion Schools

- **Health:** Promoting healthy habits with educational activities on nutrition, sun safety, and hygiene.
- **Fitness:** Encouraging movement throughout the day through school-wide activities and fun movement breaks.
- **Sport:** Developing sports lessons and teams where students with and without intellectual disabilities can play together.
- **Community:** Creating school-wide engagement through lessons, posters, and assemblies promoting inclusion.

Recognition

Schools that join the SOBC Inclusive Champion Schools program will receive from Special Olympics BC:

Primary Recognition – Your school will be awarded with a plaque or banner.

- Plaque or Banner

Secondary Recognition

- Promotion in SOBC's digital channels
- Tim Hortons gift cards
- T-shirts, lanyards, masks
- Sports equipment (TBD)

Join us today to open hearts and minds and create inclusion!

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