

Benefits

- Promotes social inclusion through sports
- Whole school engagement
- Bully Prevention
- Character Development
- Leadership Development
- Physical Fitness
- Increased positive school culture

Co-Ed Inclusive Play

- Unified Sports teams are co-ed teams and consist of a MINIMUM of 50% ratio combination of students with intellectual disabilities and students without ID.
- Teams should have a MAXIMUM of 50% athletes without Intellectual Disabilities.



SB 776: Zariah's Law

<https://www.downbytheborder.org>

What is SB 776?

- Senate Bill 776 states that children with intellectual disabilities would have access to competitive Interscholastic Sports backed by University Interscholastic League (UIL)
- SB 776 became law in the state of Texas on September 1st, 2021.
- UIL and Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) have partnered to implement SB 776 by creating a Unified Interscholastic League.
- The Unified Interscholastic League is a CO-ED division made up of athletes with Intellectual Disabilities and those without ID.
- Unified Interscholastic play mirrors UIL in providing practices, regular season play, and play-offs.
- Unified teams compete at Zone, District, Bi-District, Area, Region, and State.



Unified Sports

Basketball

- Fall

Track and Field

- Spring

Unified Robotics

- Year-round

Definition of Participants

Unified Student Athlete

- A student receiving special education based on cognitive, developmental, and/or intellectual delay or disability.

Unified Student Partner

- A student who is NOT identified by the school as a Unified Student Athlete

How to participate

- Your child must belong to a Unified Champion School and have a Partnership for Inclusion form on file with SOTX to participate in UIL unified interscholastic sports.
- Your child must be between 7th-12th grade.
- Athletes must maintain academic standings and can not participate in both Unified Interscholastic and UIL sports.

Our Vision

- Children with Intellectual disabilities will have their own Interscholastic League to compete against others with Intellectual Disabilities. Rather than unified play.
- Freshman/JV/Varsity level play
- Inclusive sports including other disabilities i.e. Autism, Cerebral Palsy, and Visual Impaired.
- Unified Athletes will have access to additional sports such as Volleyball, Soccer, and Softball



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®



Contact Us!

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