



The **Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)** at the U.S. Department of Education is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts.

OSEP administers the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) through Part B formula grants for State education agencies for pre-school and school-age children and youth; Part C formula grants for lead agencies (e.g., State departments of health) for the infants and families program; and Part D discretionary grants to institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations to support technical assistance and dissemination, technology, personnel preparation, parent-training and information centers, and grants to States for personnel development. **OSEP has supported Special Olympics through the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® program since its inception in 2008.**

With generous funding from OSEP, U.S. Special Olympics programs receive resources to implement the Unified Champion Schools program, which directly supports social and emotional learning and non-academic indicators required by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and helps meet the following OSEP objectives:

1. Assist states and localities in providing for the education of all children with disabilities
2. Assess the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities

Through the work of Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools, young people with and without intellectual disabilities are equipped with the knowledge, skills, tools and training to create classrooms and school climates of acceptance, respect, and meaningful inclusion. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in - and feel a part of -- all activities, opportunities, and functions.