

Whole School Engagement

-provides opportunities for all students in the school to participate in unified strategies for schools through sustained school-wide activities.

School hosts **Young Athletes Day**, showcasing their young athletes and buddies with general ed students serving as Fans in the Stands and teammates for each athlete.

Photo to right features **Young Athletes Day at Westview Primary School in Berkeley County where each young athlete had an entire cheering section dedicated to him/her and was escorted by their buddies and fans in the Opening Ceremonies Parade of Athletes*



Inclusive drama class or club performs **"It's Our School, Too"** play for the entire school. Script is available on the www.so-sc.org website under the Project UNIFY tab. Script can easily be shortened or adapted to suit any school's needs. "It's Our School, Too" tells the story of a unified basketball team seeking the same awards banquet the other sports teams are given at the end of their season. Elementary Schools, check out the "Captain Respect" play script developed by young ambassadors in SC just for your age audience!

**Photo to left features Pickens High School's "It's Our School, Too" production in their first year as a Unified School.*

Awareness Day or Week, features multiple activities and/or days focused on raising awareness around intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics, Unified Sports, R-Word and Respect Campaigns and the Unified Champion School message as a whole.

Photo to right features inclusive youth leaders at Palmetto Middle School leading **Get Into It lessons in **homerooms** of all three grade levels on a Project UNIFY day. This activity immediately followed an assembly featuring the Movies that Move clips, available online through Get Into It.*



Additional Whole School Engagement Ideas...

Pledge-Signing Events: considering every Unified Champion School receives a new pledge banner each year as a part of their resource kit, it's no wonder this is a popular option! For elementary schools, pledge banners are for students to pledge "respect" for all and middle/high school banners are intended for students to take the pledge against the "R-Word". Many schools set these banners up at a pledge table in the cafeteria or other common areas during an Awareness Week. Students can use the pledge-signing as a way to advocate and raise awareness around social justice for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

School Assembly: bringing entire grade levels or even the whole school together for one advocacy event can be a very effective way of educating students and staff on the message of Unified Champion Schools. These events are most effective when the voices of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities are heard. Videos (many available on Special Olympics website) and other media are also great attention grabbers.

Pep Rally: who doesn't love a good rally! Students coming together for a positive charge in supporting the Unified Sports teams in the school and promoting respect through the Unified Movement can serve as a tremendous way of engaging the whole school.

