**2019-2020 Application Cycle**

**Program Overview**The Special Olympics National School Recognition Program provides an opportunity for schools across the U.S. to be acknowledged for their achievements with inclusion and their partnership with Special Olympics.

**Achievement Standards**Ten standards of excellence were developed by a national panel of leaders in education and Special Olympics. When the standards have been met by a school, it is eligible to become a *national* *banner Unified Champion School*. These schools will be recognized at both the state and national level.

**Banners**The distinguished schools that achieve the standards will receive a vinyl banner that reads “Special Olympics National Unified Champion School” and will include the name of that particular school. These are similar to the athletic championship banners that hang in most school gymnasiums. Banners will be presented on an annual basis to schools meeting the standards for the first time.

**2019-2020 Application Process**All schools are invited to apply through the online application: <https://specialolympics.submittable.com>.

There are three applications – one for elementary schools, one for middle and high schools, and one for colleges. Each application asks how each of the ten standards have been met by the applying school. A school principal or administrator should be involved in the application process. Only one form should be submitted for each school. **Schools must reapply for recognition every four years.** Any school that originally applied in 2016 will be up for reapplication this year.

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: The 2020 application is based on activities which took place during the 2019-2020 school year.**

**Application Review**After the submission deadline, each application will be reviewed by the respective State Special Olympics Program office. Once the State Program staff have reviewed, the application will be passed onto the National Certifying Body for a secondary review. Schools will be notified of their application status based on the timeline below. Any questions should be directed to the contact listed below.

**2019 Timeline**

* Applications Open: April 1st at 9am Eastern Time
* Applications Close: June 1st at 5pm Eastern Time
* Application Review: June-July
* School Notification: August-September
* Applications Re-Open: Spring 2021

**Contact Information
Name**, Title
Special Olympics State
Phone
Email