



To: Mr. Watts, Superintendent  
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board  
Members of Newport Board of Education

March, 2024

**Department of Exceptional Children Update:**

**1. Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools.**

The Unified Champion Schools (UCS) initiative is a nationally supported Special Olympics program offered on the state-level and supported with generous funding by the US Department of Education. Special Olympics Kentucky(SOKY) assists schools in our state with implementing the three pillars of a Unified Champion School:

- Inclusive sports – The Unified Sports® programs including Interscholastic/ KHSAA Unified Sports, Unified PE or Unified Intramurals, and Special Olympics Unified Sports. Inclusive sports supports all ages with the Special Olympics Young Athletes 2-7 year old inclusive play activity program.
- Youth Leadership – Students with and without intellectual disabilities working together to lead and plan advocacy, awareness, and other Special Olympics and related inclusive activities throughout the school year
- Whole School Engagement – Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach the majority of the school population. Examples include such things as Spread the Word to End the Word (RWord) Campaigns, and exploring topics such as, student advocacy, and inclusion.

Newport Independent Schools are currently involved in all pillars of Unified Champion Schools. Our goal is to participate in activities that promote inclusion and create opportunities throughout the school year where students with and without disabilities can work together to create more inclusive environments.

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## **Inclusive Sports Initiative**

Newport Middle and High School Students will be participating in a Unified Bocce Tournament on April 26, 2024 at Simon Kenton High School. The tournament will begin 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:30 a.m. This event will showcase both regular education and special populations competing against other student pairs in Northern, Kentucky. Students receiving special education services will be paired with a regular ed. student at the event. Each district participating in the event is allowed to bring a total of five student pairs to compete. Newport will have four student pairs.

## **Youth Leadership Initiative and Whole School Engagement**

To promote respect, and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities at school and in the community Newport Independent Schools will participate in Spread the Word Inclusion Campaign during the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The "Spread the Word Inclusion" campaign is an ongoing effort by Special Olympics to raise the consciousness of society and the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the R word, and encourage people to pledge respect to everyone. Spread the Word is a global engagement campaign to increase inclusion amongst people with and without developmental disabilities through grassroots actions.

Examples of School Activities:

- Watch History of Spread the Word, Unified Talks: Creating Healthy Attitudes, and Unified Talks: Advocating for Others
- Sign posters pledging to advocate and support students with disabilities to thrive at school, home and in the community.

## **2. Exceptional Children Programming Rates:**

- **Special Education Services** – 184 Students
- **504 Programming Rates** – 17 Students

### **Related Service Enrollments:**

- Speech & Language (primary) 36
- Speech & Language (related service) 64
- Occupational Therapy 31
- Physical Therapy 6
- Mental Health Therapy 29
- Orientation and Mobility 1

### **Alternate Service Location Enrollments:**

- Restore Program 8
  - Home/Private School Students 0
  - Newport School of Innovation 4
  - Campbell Regional School 3
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## District Mental Health Clinician Programming Rates:

Number of Students Receiving Individual Therapy:

- Newport Primary School-Krysten Munn  
22 Students Total/Caseload
- Newport Intermediate School-Brandy Mains  
25 Students Total/Caseload
- Newport High School-Hannah Lunde  
32 Students Total/Caseload

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson

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