

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

March 21, 2025

1. Choose to Include Campaign

As part of our district's unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming school culture, we are proud to join the nationwide Spread the Word – Choose to Include campaign during the week of March 19th. This powerful initiative is part of a larger movement that spans schools, communities, and organizations across the country, all working together to promote awareness, acceptance, and meaningful participation for individuals with disabilities.

Throughout the week, our schools have been actively engaged in impactful activities designed to inspire action and deepen understanding. Students and staff have taken part in classroom discussions, door decorating contest, and the signing of inclusion pledges. They've explored the achievements of famous individuals with disabilities, read and discussed literature featuring diverse abilities, and collaborated on a video showcasing how our school community chooses to include every day. The video was officially posted on March 21, 2025, and can be viewed at: [Newport Wildcats Website](https://www.newportwildcats.org/) <https://www.newportwildcats.org/>

The momentum behind this campaign has been truly remarkable, with overwhelming participation from students and staff alike. The energy and enthusiasm displayed reflect a growing movement of advocacy, and a shared commitment to ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and included.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to embedding this initiative into the very fabric of our schools—ensuring that inclusion is not just a weeklong focus but a fundamental principle reinforced at every level, every day. Together, we are not just spreading the word—we are transforming our schools and communities for the better.

2. Unified Sports Programming Expansion

In a milestone moment for our district's commitment to inclusion and student engagement, we participated in our first Unified Track & Field event on March 18, 2025. Newport achieved success, with Kayden Lynn earning first place in the discus event, supported by dedicated school staff, families, and community members.

This experience has been transformative—empowering our students to develop teamwork, confidence, and lasting connections. Our Unified Sports program now includes Track & Field, Skiing, and Bocce Ball, with ongoing efforts to expand these opportunities further.

Looking ahead to the 2025-26 school year, we will explore participation in Unified Basketball Sports, providing even more students with inclusive athletic opportunities.

Our district's involvement in Unified Sports reflect our ongoing dedication to supporting students with disabilities beyond the classroom. These initiatives align with best practices in inclusive education and reinforce our district's vision for a supportive, welcoming environment for all learners.

As we continue to advance our commitment to equity and inclusive extracurriculars, we encourage the community to support our student-athletes at these upcoming unified sports track and field competitions:

- April 19, 2025 – Boone County High School | 8:45 AM
- April 30, 2025 – J.V. Invitational | 4:45 PM
- Pendleton County 1A/2A Classic – 9:00 AM

Newport Track & Field Coaching Staff:

- Head Coach: Juan McNay
- Assistant Coaches: Jerry Hatfield, Cheryl Noonchester, Andre' Anderson, Zach Noonchester, and Nate Long

3. Special Education Service Programming Rates:

- Special Education Population
225 Students
- Related Service Enrollments:
Speech & Language- 115
Occupational Therapy – 40
Physical Therapy – 7
Mental Health Therapy- 34

Alternate Service Locations:

- Regional Schools – 9 Students
- Home/Private School Students – 1 Student
- Newport School of Innovation- 4 Students
- Campbell Regional Detention -9 Students

504 Programming Rates – 33 Students

- NPS- 6
- NIS – 14
- NHS – 13
- NSOI- 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Swanson