

Columbus City Schools Special Olympics Program

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

There are 3 general aspects to the Special Olympics program within our school system.

1. In-School Program: Available from Grade School all the way through High School. All activities take place during school hours with all transportation being provided by Special Olympics as needed. Current sports for this program are basketball as well as track and field.
2. Unified Program: Currently available at some high schools for track and field. Unified Sports have teams with an equal number of athletes with and without intellectual abilities compete with each other with similar skill levels (no Varsity or JV athletes)
3. Evening Program: Games and practices are generally 1 to 2 nights a week. Sports include: Athletics (Track and Field), Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Golf, Gymnastics, Powerlifting, Softball, Swimming, and Volleyball. Most sports athletes can participate at age 8 or older, there are a few such as powerlifting that have an older age requirement.

To Compete in our Special Olympics program athletes must:

1. Be currently enrolled or have graduated from Columbus City School.
2. Be identified as having limitations in learning and adaptive skills.
3. Must Complete a Special Olympics participation form (includes a medical release) and a Code of Conduct. All athletes who compete in programs which occur during the school day will have a chance to have their physicals taken care of on Mass Medical day at no charge and transportation is provided.

Additional information about the program can be found on the Special Olympics Section of the Columbus Schools website including all enrollment forms as well as a calendar of events. <https://www.ccssoh.us/Page/1229>

If you would like to see some more of what goes on with our program take a look at our facebook page. www.facebook.com/ColumbusComets/

For additional information you can also contact John Esson at the Columbus City Schools Special Olympics Office.

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