

Special Olympics - Unified Champion Schools

Academic Matters - July 2026

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Strategic Plan Connection

FCPS EXCELLENCE EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY
2023–30 STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #2: Safe, Supported, Included, and Empowered

Every student will experience an equitable school community where student health and well-being are prioritized, and student voice is centered.

Equity Commitment

We will amplify student voice to inform our approaches, honor students' identities and experiences, and ensure student safety and well-being in an inclusive school climate and culture.

Key Metrics

- Student academic inclusion and engagement
- Positive school climate (safety, inclusion, and sense of belonging)
- Student access to emotional, behavioral, and health services
- Student attendance and absenteeism rates
- Extracurricular participation and leadership activities
- Disciplinary disproportionality and recidivism



Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools



The program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change.

Program Centers on Three Main Areas:

- **Unified Sports**
  Students with and without disabilities train and compete together.
- **Inclusive Youth Leadership**
  Students of all abilities take leadership roles in planning and advocacy.
- **Whole School Engagement**
  School-wide campaigns that promote inclusion and reduce bullying.

Special Olympic Unified Champion Schools Recognized Schools: **Bush Hill Elementary**, **Woodson High School**, and **Marshall High School**

Special Olympics in FCPS



At the beginning of the 2024-25 School year, FCPS had 23 total schools with Special Olympics programming. Since then it has expanded to **49 schools**.

School Breakdown

- 30 Elementary
- 4 Middle Schools
- 12 High Schools
- 3 Secondary Schools

113%

Expansion Increase

Since 2024

Special Olympics

Whole School Engagement and Student Impact









Creating Inclusive School Cultures

Whole school engagement activates the entire student body through inclusive sports, youth leadership, and awareness activities.

- Promotes social inclusion and reduces bullying.
- Develops empathy and understanding across the student body.
- Empowers students with and without disabilities to lead together.

