

## **IESA Athletes with Disabilities Advisory Committee**

### **October 3rd, 2024**

**Present at the meeting were:** Jackie Litwiller, IESA Assistant Executive Director; Jonathan Frederick, Coordinator, Special Olympics Illinois; Stile Smith, AD, Pana JHS; Vince Zomboracz, AD, Morris Saratoga; via zoom Lauren Hoppensteadt, AD, Yorkville; Keith Wallace, Lincoln-Way Special Recreation Association; unable to attend Andrew Kissel, AD, Peoria Academy

#### **General Discussion Items and Prioritizing Information.**

1. Develop a page on the IESA website for resources that schools have access to.
  - a. Create a one-page document to share with the member schools on classifications and athlete centered language that is easy to understand.
2. Grow and foster the partnership with [Special Olympics](#) by promoting [Unified Champion Schools](#).
3. Look at the feasibility of adding an adapted category to the State Track and Field Finals that would not be limited to those in a wheelchair.
  - a. Schools can complete the accommodation form for any student in their program and submit it for approval to participate in a sport or activity.
4. Investigate a partnership with [Unified Sound](#) – Remove Barriers and Foster Social Change Through Music.
5. Reach out to Cindy Housner – [GLASA](#) (Great Lakes Adaptive Sport Association)
6. [Special Recreation Associations of Illinois](#) – 31 around the state of Illinois.
  - a. Discussed the addition of an adapted basketball participation at one of the state final sites this is more club team based rather than school based.
  - b. [P.E. Take Over Days](#)

The Committee will meet again on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm via Zoom.



## RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



**Special Olympics**  
Illinois

[Special Olympics Illinois](#) is for athletes who have intellectual disabilities.

[Unified Champion Schools](#) - Become One Today!



[United Sound](#)'s mission is to remove barriers and foster social change through music.



[Move United's](#) vision is that every person, regardless of ability, has an equal opportunity to participate in sports and recreation in their community. Our mission is to provide national leadership and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop independence, confidence, and fitness through participation in community sports, including competition, recreation and educational programs.



[The Special Recreation Associations Network of Illinois \(SRANI\)](#) is a network of therapeutic recreation agencies. Special Recreation Associations provide community-based therapeutic recreation services to children and adults with disabilities. These agencies are members of the Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA).



[Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association \(GLASA\)](#) strives to 'Let No One Sit on the Sidelines' and operates under a mission to promote and support the optimal development and well-being of youth, adults and military veterans who have a physical or visual disability through the provision of inclusive recreation, fitness and competitive sports activities. GLASA offers opportunities for empowerment through education, leadership and training in collaboration with community-based organizations.

Hi Jackie,

So grateful that you're willing to help us get the word out about United Sound! I have included an overview document in this package but here's a quick list of what you might share in a simpler format.

1. It's peer mentoring, so there must be peers in the class or club to do the teaching. We pair them 3 peers for each 1 student with disabilities.
2. We provide instrumental music support: band, orchestra, guitar, modern band, mariachi, percussion
3. Most schools meet once per week for 45 minutes but this varies by school.
  - a. After school as a club
  - b. During in-school time that is set aside for enrichment or the like.
  - c. During the ensemble class. Where this is the case, the United Sound musicians just attend one day a week while the others meet every day.
4. We provide the teacher training, student training to get the kids ready to teach, lesson plans, method books, flash cards, games... everything that is needed.
5. We work very hard to make sure this is a "show up and do it" type of experience, with the understanding that teachers don't have extra time to invent new curriculum.
6. Typically, all of the musicians perform together on one piece each semester. This might be an evening concert, a pep assembly, or an in-school performance where administrators and staff just come to the music room to listen. Performing is very important and helps the mentors to keep going.

Costs:

1. \$5,000 startup fee paid only one time for the life of the chapter.
  - a. Includes instrument selection to provide instruments to support the addition of a new ensemble. Approximate value is \$2500. Some schools need fewer, more cost prohibitive instruments, others need a greater number of less expensive instruments.
  - b. The rest of the startup fee pays for the time we'll spend with each school.
2. For some schools, the startup fee can be managed without a problem. For others, we work together with them to find sponsors to cover the cost. We have NEVER denied a school because they were unable to pay.
3. Parents of each participant pay an annual \$35 fee. This covers new chapter t-shirts each year, bracelets, stickers, additional games and prizes, etc. 80% of our participants pay this fee. 20% request a scholarship each year and we provide it without question.

The overview document and all of the information can be found at [www.unitedsound.org/overview](http://www.unitedsound.org/overview)

Please let me know if you would like more postcards. We have plenty!

Thank you so much!

Julie