

3:30 P.M. GCPD MEETING

>>: I think we're ready to start now. I'll start the recording. Okay. Thank you for your patience. We're just firing out the technical difficulties we are having. Okay. I'm ready to begin. Hello, everybody. My name is Matthew D. The governor's committee made recommendations for policies and programs in ten major areas. The committee supports a network or committees on people with disability issues, awards to promote greater awareness and promote compliance with disability-related laws, and we do have a webinar about the special Olympics. So FUNdamental Sports. So take it away.

>>: All right. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Renee, and I'm the director of FUNdamental Sports here in the state of Texas, and I'll allow her to introduce herself, Tammy H. Hi. Thank you all for joining us. I'm the executive director for Unified programs for special Olympics, Texas.

>>: How is everybody doing?

>>: Hi. Thanks for joining us.

>>: And then our final speaker that will speak later today is Barbara which will be speaking on the program here in special Olympics, Texas. Next.

>>: Lauren, would you like to introduce yourself and talk about yourself?

>>: Sure. I'm the teacher and special Olympics coach. I've been a teacher here since 2014 and I've been running the special Olympics program since we began it in 2018.

>>: Next.

>>: I'm Scott Ryan, I'm the principal and I was there from the beginning when we started the program.

>>: Next.

>>: Hi, my name is Chris Smith. I'm the head basketball coach and also the assistant special Olympics coach. I've been here for four years, and it's been one of the best things that has happened. Next.

>>: Hi. I'm Misty Higgins, director of special education. I've been with the district since 2003. We have a fabulous team here that has done a lot to help motivate this program and get it going.

>>: Next slide. Here we go.

>>: I want to talk about how this got started and where we've gone from here. My goal was to be the most inclusive high school in the state of Texas. We did have a concern from some parents and life skills -- probably the most vulnerable were left out of a lot. They were in one hallway, separated from campus. They weren't involved

much. We took that as a challenge. I didn't want it to be that way. I wanted all to feel included here. So what we did to start things off was we had a -- we decided we need a program and we reached out, special Olympics Renee reached out to us along with Aaron and we decided we were going to put on a football game, we called it Thursday night lights. We had one of our super stars who just got drafted by the Chicago bears, Shawn Johnson, was our quarter back at the time, but he became the head coach of our football team. We brought a neighboring district over. We had the band out, the cheer leaders, the drill team. We had a massive community sport that night and there were no losers. We did win, by the way, but however, we -- like I said, there were no losers that night. We made lifelong friends with our students and just had a great time. But what we saw really was that the kids wanted to be involved so bad, they got so much out of that one night, and also, we saw that our gen eds kids, if you will, and our football athletes, they wanted to be involved. They want to help kids and we -- when we gave them the avenue to be super stars, they stepped up. So it was so successful, we knew we were on to something at that point. So the next school year, we wanted to know how we could take it further. We made a PE class to where our special needs kids were in special Olympics PE and

then we took volunteers from our population to be included. I made a phone call to my boss and I said I want to give Ms. Hanratty here, I want to give her a coach's stipend, just like we would a football coach or volleyball coach. I felt like with money becomes -- there's some responsibility and we can have accountability, also, that we're going to do as much as we can for these kids and I did feel like the time that they were putting in was equivalent to what another sport would. Our school jumped on board and said they would fund it fully. Later on, we got coach Smith here as a basketball coach. He was a natural fit. It's considered his second sport. If you're a principal, you know what I'm talking about. Most of our coaches have two sports and his is basketball and special. We treat this on paper just like any sport on campus. We do have a school store here that is with snacks and kids that have to stay behind and we use that. A hundred percent of our funds are from the school store, so pays for our trips and stuff like that. My real audiences, I want to talk to school administrators, principals, superintendents, what I've learned in a short time here is it is by far the best thing that I've ever done. It's money well spent. What I've learned and seen in other schools, we try to get them on board, it typically takes an administrator at the top

of the school to say we're going to do this, we're going to fund this, and we're going to put resources for it because it's the best thing for our kids. Principals, we spend money on bully prevention, drop out prevention, the list goes on and on, and I'm not saying those programs aren't important. What I am saying is that what you get for the money you spend and having a Unified program, I'm saying it'll have a greater impact on your school and it'll also help in every one of those issues that I just mentioned. It has impacted the high school. I think in my career, I don't think of anything that I've ever done -- not that it's me. I can't think of one program that -- more than us being a unified school and having a program through special Olympics. Next.

>>: So after we kind of did our football stuff, we were told about the UIL portion of special Olympics, and the first thing that we got started in was track, and we can play this video to see one of our state track meets. (Playing video)

>>: These are some of our shot put boys. We've got the long jump. For UIL track events, you can put two athletes which are kids with special needs and then two partners in each event, which would be the general Ed kids, and they get to work as a team, and they have so much fun.

>>: As you can see, I mean, every athlete, every -- they are all having fun competing, and that's really what it's all about right there, and whether they're coming in first or last, everybody -- look at the group, everybody is supporting each other, and that's what this whole program is.

>>: You sometimes think of track as a sport where individuals get points. But this is a -- UIL did a great job on this. It's a true team event. You get points as a team, and so every little point matters. Every person's event counts.

>>: Next.

>>: So on the left here, we have a picture at one of our football games. The cheer leaders were out there. They're so excited. Then on the right, that is one of our hallway pep rallies. So every kid at the school and every teacher, they come out in the hallway, and it's basically a parade for us. The band is playing our fight song, the cheer leaders are out there, the drill team, everybody is high-fiving the kids, and it helps our kids feel like they belong. Everyone at the school knows our students' names, and that makes them feel so special. They really truly feel like they're part of something.

>>: Next.

>>: As you can see, this is just a photo gallery of

a lot of things that we do. We take them out to eat after they compete. Just how everybody is together, everybody is happy in every picture. You see people helping each other in basketball. You see them just hanging out. It's a joy to see them together, not just in school, but outside of school, too. Funding, every money, we spend it so well because look at their faces while they're doing this.

>>: Next.

>>: Next, we have basketball. We just started this. We weren't sure how it was going to be. With me being the head basketball coach, I wasn't quite sure. How do we incorporate all of this, you know, and UIL, you have certain rules. In my mind, I was thinking, you can't -- UIL, how are you going to have two athletes, partners, and see where we're at, but you can go ahead and play the video.

(Playing video)

>>: You can see the crowd participation, you can see the kids, how much they work together.

>>: Next.

>>: You can see at the end of that video how the comradery, it's not just our kids. Between the schools. Like I said, there's really no losers. We all get together afterwards. Typically, we invite the other team

to have pizza and just have a great time also getting to know their kids.

>>: So this next video is an interview video with an athlete and a partner, and you can just truly see the friendship that they have formed. Go ahead and play it.

(Playing video)

>>: It was just a chance to play sports that I never got to play before, but I like it because I've made so many friends and it's more than just sports. Like we hang out before school and get coffee. I take her home sometimes just because we like talking. She knows all of my secrets. She knows not to tell anyone.

>>: Yeah. The reason why I joined it is because, at first, I was shy and not talkative around people, and then whenever my sophomore year came, there was more people coming and I opened like my shell and stuff, so I was communicating people more and talk a lot, like outside of school and stuff, so that impacted why I joined this. Whenever people joined into the class, I was seeing them play, so they play, I like step in and join sometimes like the beginning of the school year. I did --

>>: We have an agreement that I'm coming back, I'm going away my first semester of college, but we're meeting up and hanging out again.

>>: I see a lot of people doing it, so I practice



just doing it and not give up.

>>: We have this thing, every class period, like I don't know why we started doing this, but we'll bounce the ball as hard as we can to each other. It's made you stronger at shooting. It's a fun game. I don't know why we do it. It cracks us up. Sometimes the ball will reach us, and we'll just die.

>>: Whenever the beginning of school year when it was September, I was trying to do invitations for people, so she helped me to pass them out, and then when it was my party, a lot of people showed up that I didn't know that they would because the past few years, I haven't been like having invitations for friends to come to my party, so whenever it was this coming year, there was a lot of people that -- in that class, that it made me like comfortable to invite people to my birthday party. So yeah. Yeah.

>>: That was a fun party.

>>: So at the end of that video, what she was talking about was Colby has never had a true birthday party, and this class helped her gain the confidence to be able to try and have a real birthday party, and she passed out invitations to everyone in the class, and we had so many people from the class show up, and she said it was the best birthday party she ever had. So it goes to show

that the little bit you do in school makes a long impact. She'll have life-long friends that she'll hang out outside of school. Here's a pep rally. You can go ahead and play the video.

(Playing video)

>>: And I think that video truly shows how the whole school is involved. We had a vision that we wanted our kids with special needs to be part of everything in the pep rally. We got with the cheer leader sponsor, drill team sponsor, and they were on board with learning routines with us. Our students got to walk down and sit with all of the rest of the teams who were in that pep rally. They got to do their own dances. This was also the pep rally that we received our national banner at, and there's only four schools in the state of Texas who have received this national banner, and we were one of them. Next.

>>: And here's another one of our athletes. Kaleb.

>>: We'll play the video.

(Playing video)

>>: It's great. It's meant a lot to me and I love it and it's a lot of fun and everything and I'm glad I finally got to be in a sport that I like, I never thought I would be interested in, and it's great and it's amazing and it's wonderful that I'm finally in like a sports

thing, you know. It's helped me a lot, and it's been giving me more confidence, more positive, and more helpful, and me and my friends look up to me and they stand up to me and they tower on me and they know I would never quit on them, and being with different people that -- they like -- I mean, they love you and they respect you and they look up to you, and -- you know, and it's what being a friend is all about, you know, and same thing with family and everything. And I think it was just like that, you know, friends and family. Basketball is the fun thing for me. I feel like I have the height for it, you know. I want to put on a show for this, you know. Everyone will love that one. I wanted to do it for everyone, uh-huh. That's what they wanted, and I did it, you know. I just did it for the fans. I tried to put on a show for everyone, you know, give them a good show and everything. This is just to find out who you are and everything. Just go out there, show what you can do, and just be yourself out there, and just be confident and be positive and just be yourself. I think every school should have this because it's amazing, and it's fun, you know, and it's great.

>>: As you can see, he will put on a show all of the time. That's one thing about him. And Unified has given him the confidence to do that. If he didn't have Unified,

I don't know what he would be doing. He's a big, tall kid. He gets to go to pep rallies and plays shot put. He does a wonderful job. He got second place finish and he had his chest up and unbelievable. The confidence that he has. Just the way that he walks down the hall because of this program is amazing, and that's just one story. We have stories that we could go hours on for. But these are just certain kids that we just spotlighted that do a great job here and we love them like they're our own, and we will do anything for them and they'll do anything for us. This is something that everybody should have because it's awesome. Next.

>>: Finally, we want to conclude with one of our friends, Daylon. He is a student at UT. One of our best football players. Super star kid. There are so many kids that are super stars, but they need an avenue to do so. He sent us a video from his dorm room. He was already the most liked, most popular kid on campus, but just the way -- him being able to give back to others and we keep in touch with him all the time, and when we have a competition, he wants to know who you the kids are doing. When he's in town, he looks us up every time. Like I said, the impact goes so far beyond the classroom.

>>: And it's not just our students with special needs. It makes a huge impact for students without

disabilities as well.

>>: Next.

>>: Thank y'all for allowing us to share our story.

>>: Would you like to share anything else about UCS and UIL?

>>: Yes. You guys did an outstanding job. Tear jerkers from your athletes and partners, so way to go and way to bring home UCS. Super proud of you guys and what you guys do and setting the example for the rest of Texas. If you guys have any questions at this time for PNG or anything about UCS or Unified, please feel free to ask now. We'll also have another Q and A session at the very end. We have a few minutes to see if we have any questions. All right. There are no questions in the chat at this time. So we will go ahead and move forward with a presentation with one of our programs, FUNDamental Sports.

>>: All right. There we go. I'd like to introduce to you all Barbara Kielaszek, and she'll tell you more about herself. She's the creator of a sports class here in the state of Texas. Barbara, please take it away.

>>: Thanks, Renee. My name is Barbara Kielaszek, I've been a volunteer with special Olympics for over 40 years. I've worn a variety of hats with special Olympics. I came as an adapted physical education teacher and retirement is wonderful for those of you who are still in

the trenches. I wish you all a wonderful end to your school year and hope you get a lot of rest this summer. Next, please. We'll start off with a video which will show you the relaunch of what we used to call motor activities training program and ATP which is now transitioned to FUNdamental Sports.

(Playing video)

>>: She loves doing activities. This gives her much stuff to do, which is awesome.

>>: I think there's words to describe what this means, so this is something that now our child, we can honestly say she's an athlete. Like she is a full-blown athlete and she gets to participate and she's inclusive like everybody else.

>>: Next slide, please.

>>: As mentioned in the video, there are three core principles that -- I'm not sure where the music is coming from.

>>: There are opportunities to help make a difference in your community. Opportunities to --

>>: Go back and stop the video.

>>: Over 58,000 special Olympics Texas athletes. Special Olympics Texas hosts over 300 competitions at events --

>>: Thank you very much. Great. So FUNdamental

Sports is just one of many programs that special Olympics Texas offers. PNG just went over one of the programs. Unified champion schools. We have traditional sports that many of you may be aware of, but for some individuals, either due to their physical challenges, they might have multiple impairments, they might have developmental disorders, or are on the spectrum, and due to their current performance levels, they're not able to participate successfully in traditional special Olympics programs. Therefore, FUNdamental Sports would be the program for them. Those three core principles include foundational schools, Unified partners, and no limits. That's what the FUN, the fun in FUNdamental Sports is intentionally an acronym for our core principles, but it's also a reminder to everybody that our first objective is to have fun. If the individuals have fun, then they are more likely to repeat and come back out again. You can see in some of the pictures there, we start as young as two years old, and there is no upper age limit. So it's not just for those who are in school, but it's for individuals who are out of school, too. Next. When working on foundation skills, here are some pictures of our athletes in action, so we do a variety of sports that special Olympics Texas offers. For example, in the top left, one of the athletes, the way she was playing

basketball is using a table top device. The skills here of hitting the lever can also be translated into school life and community life as if she were going to be using a switch device and going clock wise, we have a young man who is doing power lifting. Below him is how an athlete with Unified partners participating in volleyball, and then the bottom left are unifies partners who are participating in tennis. If we can run the video clip to show how we have modified equipment so athletes can be successful. Well, I'll tell you what you could see. It doesn't look like the video wants to go on right now. We got a glove and ball that both have Velcro. Velcro is one of my favorite things to use. So when the ball is thrown, typically, this young man would not be able to catch the ball successfully. He might be able to get the glove near the ball, but then the ball wouldn't stand. So we use Velcro balls and gloves, therefore, when the ball was tossed, he was able to be successful and keep the ball in his glove. Next, please. Unified partners, PNG told you a lot about Unified sports. It is an option in FUNdamental Sports. If the special Olympian would like to have a partner, they are welcome to have a partner, but you don't have to have partners. You can see in these pictures here, sometimes the partner is a family member. Sometimes it's someone who is a classmate. It could also



be a community member who is partnered with them. The two individuals on your right, I just want to take a moment and tell you about. Cassie and Lucas, they are brother and sister. The first time they came out to one of our events, Cassie, who's the special Olympian, has a variety of things going on. She also has -- she will repeat everything you say. When they went to the power lifting station, Cassie was going and she did her try on the bench press, and we told her, Cassie, hold the bar for 5 seconds, and she repeats, Cassie, hold the bar for 5 seconds, and she did. She held the bar for 5 seconds. When it was Lucas' turn, we say, Lucas, hold the bar for 5 seconds, to which Cassie then changed it, and said, Lucas, hold the bar for 10 seconds, and we all looked at Cassie and asked her then if she was challenging her brother who was actually shaking because he was laughing. His sister had never ad-libbed, if you will, and she said, yes, ten, one, two, three, four, five, and then went on. Well, fast forward a year later, they've been to a few events in between. When she came to this year's winter game competition and we asked Lucas and Cassie, what sport would you like to go to, she immediately said, power lifting, and they headed over there. Cassie's mom has also shared with us that the relationship between Cassie and her brother, Lucas, has greatly improved, that Lucas

now realizes that his big sister is kind of cool and can do things. Just like the PNG folks were doing things and the program at their school has developed and has been beneficial for individuals outside of the special Olympics athlete. The same is true in FUNDamental Sports. Next. The N in FUNDamentals has no limits. I've mentioned to people, somewhat jokingly, but it's also true, that it's not our special Olympic athletes that are limited. Many times, it is us. Discussing that, at first when basketball started, he was trying to think, how will this work, and what do we need to do, and they made it work. The same thing with all of our programs. We are the ones limited in trying to think outside of the box. What is basketball, for example, which is pictured here, what will basketball look like. So the young lady on the left is practicing the target pass where she has a regular basketball and she's doing a chest pass to a target on the wall. Well, the next is pictures of an individual who is not able to do the chest pass in the same way, but we want her to be able to have the experience of throwing a ball at a target. So we have a beach ball that looks like a basketball. We attach it -- a leaf blower to a bowling ramp, put the beach ball on top, we switch, and then the young lady, all she has to do is hit the switch, and the beach ball, basketball will shoot at the target. If we

can go ahead forward or -- a couple more, please. Keep going. All right. Next slide, please. Progression is key in order for athletes to experience success. Now, for this young man, we were out cycling last year at our summer games competition, and the device he's using is a stationary device. We encouraged him to at least give it a try with a hand crank, which you see in the first picture. In the middle picture, we encouraged him to use the hand crank plus the foot pedals, which he agreed and was successful at. From there, we found a bike that would work for him, encouraged him to get on, which he did, and he was able to propel the bike independently. We did have one of our volunteers there to help steer to make sure that he was safe the whole time, but the look on his face when he went by himself and the look on his mom's face was just priceless. Now, he was able to make this progression in a short amount of time, maybe 30 minutes, but we, again, have to learn, we being the coaches, the volunteers, the family members, the teachers, we need to learn patience. For some of our athletes, it's going to take days, weeks, or possibly years to progress the next skill, but that's okay. Meanwhile, we want to just make sure you're having a lot of fun while you're participating. Next. Community is huge in special Olympics. Whether the community is between the school and

the family such as the transition team at the school that's working with the family and the community. What is going to happen to the student once he or she graduates from school? What are the socialization activities and their daily life and volunteer and work opportunities going to be? Well, special Olympics can be part of the answer to that community. Also, we want families to be able to build this core network which is really important once they are out of school. You can see that bottom left picture, those are a group of moms whose sons and daughters have all graduated from school that then they formed their own team so that they can be successful and have their support network in place. That community network that the families are in may also engage their parks and recreation departments, churches, neighborhood leagues, and so forth. And through all of these community programs, we hope to raise awareness and also develop avenues for inclusion. Next. One of the community partners, we have a variety of community partners in special Olympics and within the FUNdamental Sports program, we've been working with groups that have robotics programs and stem programs. We've reached out to retired engineer groups, occupational therapists and physical therapists, and the list can go on and on, but I wanted to show you a picture here and give a shout out to Lutheran

High School in San Antonio. Last year, we knew our summer games competition would be held in San Antonio, and we connected with Lutheran High School to see if they would bring out their robotics club to our event as just a fun activity for our athletes to participate in, and they were wonderful and came out for two days with their drones and robots. We encouraged the Lutheran High School students to also, when they had time, come down to the gym and see the different sports we were doing, which a group of the students did come down. I challenged them at that point, I said, how cool would it be if they would create a basketball shooting device which could be put on a regulation court with a regulation basketball and when an athlete hits a switch, the basketball would shoot at a regulation goal 10 feet high up in the air. Well, about three weeks ago, this is the updated pictures I've received of a prototype, and next week, those students from Lutheran High School will be bringing it to San Antonio to reveal and for our athletes to use at the games. So it's definitely a huge community that makes this possible and we're always reaching out to individuals who have the expertise and have the knowledge and let's partner together so that our athletes will be successful. Next. Those state games are going to be, like I said, in San Antonio. There are a variety of venues and a variety

of sports that special Olympics of Texas will have going on. But I'm going to do the shout out for FUNdamental Sports. We will be at Morgan's wonder land camp next week on Friday and Saturday. Athletes are competing any time between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. It's an open window for the athletes. If anybody would like to hear that's watching today, would like to join us and just come and see what it's like firsthand, you are more than welcome to come out to the camp. There's lots of information online and we'll be giving you that update at the conclusion here. If you know an individual who is at least two years old that this program might be appropriate for, we can still register them for this event. We have six different sports that we will be having going on at the camp, and those sports include, track and field, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, soccer, tennis, and all of those sports have been modified and there's at least one switch device used with all of those sports so that the athletes will be successful. Which reminds me, when we talk about building your community, those of you in the schools, please be sure to involve your assistive technology people, your AT folks. We used to think of switches and -- as needed for speech communication devices or classroom devices, but battery instructors, switch devices are really helpful in all other -- in many other areas.

We are just starting to find out how helpful those are when athletes are trying to participate in sports. Next, please. So in conclusion, we just want to remind everybody that there are no limits. We are really open to getting athletes involved no matter what their current abilities are. The young lady on the right, her family never thought she would be a power lifter, but PVC piping, which has become a friend of mine, we were able to have her use a device with assistance so that she can be a power lifter or with supportive individuals the young man was able to swim or another person is able to play volleyball. If we modify it so that the individual is successful and, as Jennifer is showing there, the center top, and just have fun, so we work on progression and skill development and those Unified partners have been wonderful to help bridge the gap to the community so that people will understand and be more inclusive. It's really been positive for our families, too, to have this support system. And last, but maybe most importantly, is to have fun. As we mentioned earlier, unless you're having fun, you're probably not going to come back and do something again, so not only do we want to make sure that our athletes have fun, but their family, their coaches, the -- whoever it is that comes out with them, we want to make sure that they have fun, too, because the athlete is

dependent on that person to come back again. So anybody wants to have a fun time, come and see us next week in San Antonio at Morgans wonder lamp camp or when you go to the website, you'll be able to find out where we will be in the future. We could also come to your own school district. You don't have to travel to state games. State games work for some of our athletes, but for some of the individuals that this program is good for, traveling to a state-level event is not possible. So we will come to your campus and work with your staff to put on one of these events. Next. There's more information there on how to contact myself or Renee who I'll be turning it back to. She is the staff person who's the lead for this program, and there's our -- the site, the link to the site that you can get more information from. Renee, I'll turn it back to you at this point to handle questions.

>>: All right. Thank you, very much, Barbara and all. Everyone, get out your phones and scan the code. We really would like to turn it over to Tammy for her to elaborate more. FUNdamental Sports is a wonderful program for those children in low incidents or life skill classes that don't typically have an opportunity to do anything. As Barbara said, it's important for us to build that community for those families as they're getting ready to leave school so that, when they leave school and that bus



doesn't come back next year to pick them up, that they have a community in which they go to and have activities and have a relationship with their child outside of just being mom and dad. They can do sports together. That helps reunite the community even more. So I do want you all to take a moment to scan that, to reach out to us to become part of special Olympics. I'm passionate about the program because these students and those graduates most often have nowhere else to go. They don't have the opportunities as most individuals do because we have not changed the mind set of those in the community to help open their minds on how they can be included. So hopefully, through this program, we can make that happen in the coming years. So Tammy, wrap up with Unified champion schools, and then we can field questions and appearances from everybody.

>>: Absolutely. Thank you, Renee, and thank you everyone for your presentations today. That was truly awesome. Thank you very much. Unified champion schools, we have over 500 in the state of Texas right now. You guys heard from PNG of the high school level. The cool thing about the high school level is we are in conjunction with our UIL, Unified interscholastic lead. We offer sports in track and field. We completed our third year. PNG was the state runner up by only two points. Then we

also completed our second year of Unified interscholastic basketball. On basketball, they showed video clips of that as well. We have three of our special Olympic athletes which are students with intellectual disabilities team up with two partners and they play on the court at the same time at the same level. That's neat to watch that. We also have STEM programs that we offer within robotics and we are completing our second year of that program as well. So that's just the stuff that we do within the high schools as far as UIL goes. Within our schools, we go all the way from elementary to middle school to high school into our SO colleges. It's very important that we start at the elementary level to where we lay foundational skills with the different programs that we offer, like FUNdamentals and young athletes program, and really just all of the sports and activities that we can do. The neat thing about UCS is that it's not a program. It is a way of life that we have on each of our campuses that really promotes inclusion and what we do on those campuses and getting even involved, not just your gen ed students, not just your SPED students. It's taking away those acronyms and getting Unified on those campuses. We have three different components. We have whole school engagement which is getting the whole school involved in what we're doing for inclusion and Unified. We have

inclusive leadership, which is the leaders of who does what they do on the campuses. They come up with the different ideas and are advisers on the campuses as well as the staff help those dreams come through. Then our last is our Unified sports and activities piece that PNG did a great job of talking about. At this time, I'd like to open it up for any questions that you guys may have on FUNDamentals.

>>: Tammy, could you kind of walk everyone through on how to reach out and get a campus or school district involved?

>>: Absolutely. So Unified champion schools, if you guys are interested in getting involved in that, you can always e-mail us at [ucsinfo@sotx.org](mailto:ucsinfo@sotx.org). The website is listed on this slide. You can go to Unified and find Unified champion schools under that as well. This -- remember, it's not a program, so it doesn't cost. None of these things that we talk about cost. It truly is a way of life. If you guys want to join the inclusion revolution or if you're a parent and you want your school to be part of this or if you're a teacher or a principal or superintendent or whoever you may be, community member that you really feel like your school is missing out by not being part of Unified, you can reach out to us and we will get them connected.

>>: Tammy, we have one more question in the chat box. What is the impact of Unified on the lives of both the athlete and the Unified partner.

>>: That's a great question. I believe that Bruce Clark just answered -- just asked that question, and he has a really great story about his impact on Unified, and I wish that he could actually speak and talk about that right now, but Unified not only changes what happens with our athletes, but it changes the lives of our partners, too. We go into this thinking that, oh, yes, we're going to change the lives of our athletes and what we find out is it changes us more than them. It makes an impact on both our athletes and our partners. We have students that have been partners in high school that have decided that their major is going to have something to do with special education or special Olympics or adaptive phys ed or anything like that that's going to keep them involved with the Unified movement throughout the state. It changes both the athletes and be partners and makes a huge impact not just on what they're doing today, but thinking about what they're going to do in the future and making sure that they stay involved. Great question, Mr. Bruce Clark.

>>: I would like to add -- I know we only have a moment or two left. Special Olympics offers a lot of trainings and speaking for FUNDamental Sports, we have

trainings available online and in person, and as Tammy said, it's free. So if we have any campus administrators that are trying to figure out now what you're going to do for in services in August, you can just check with the website and you have some contact names there and possibly we could schedule something in person. Anybody who is a physical education teacher who's a member of TAPERED, we will be presenting at the summer conference in July, and then up in region 10 at the service center also in July at their L-I-D, their LID conference. We will also be presenting and we're working on West Texas right now, possibly something up in Abilene, also in either July or possibly August. So lots of trainings and opportunities for your staff and for those of you who are watching that are not part of a school district, we also have the same opportunities available for other programs that we can come out and partner with.

>>: Very good. Are there any more questions that we have that we could help answer right now? So just a reminder on whenever it comes to Unified, FUNDamentals, UCS or anything that we've talked about today, all, all, all are involved. It's not about who can play the sport. It's about who you do we adapt the sport to make it accessible for all, and that's what we do in Unified. Unified, again, it's not just about our special Olympic

athletes. It's how we combine those with our partners. Our partners can be their peers, it could be their moms, their dads, their community partners, law enforcement torch run, community members that come together to play these Unified leagues, so it's a way to bring together a community as well as a school as well as a family as well as peers. It truly does bring everything together, and that's what we need in this world.

>>: Once again, thank you all for joining us today. We hope -- I certainly hope that you have scanned that QR code or you have popped in info at UCS info, so you can get involved. We love to have you engaged with us and we love to thank the governor's committee on persons or people with disabilities for allowing us to be here today to share information with you all, and we look forward to sharing a number of our other programs with you all in the future. Have a wonderful day.