

Be Cool. TAKE THE PLUNGE.



JOIN THE COOL SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Fun Ideas to Engage Your Students

Here are some creative engagement ideas to build excitement, boost school wide participation and excitement, foster an inclusive community, and help students feel directly connected to the impact of their efforts. Integrating friendly competition, team spirit, and lots of school pride can go a long way in making your Cool School Challenge a major success!

Preparing to Win the Cool School Challenge

- Form a student planning committee to organize the efforts.
- Have student led brainstorming sessions to allow for creative ideas for fundraising, activities, and other unique ideas that reflect the school spirit.
- Provide daily updates during morning announcements, sharing fundraising progress, milestones and fun facts about Special Olympics Illinois or your Unified Sport teams/competitions.
- Promote on social media with content provided by Special Olympics Illinois or from your students.
- Involve video production classes to create promotion videos to show the impact of their fundraising and to encourage involvement.
- Hold a poster design contest to promote the Cool School Challenge.

Cool School Challenge Plunge Day

- Students can volunteer to help set up, check-in plungers, and monitor the plunge zone.
- Unified Partners plunge together or help make announcements.
- Have a student emcee to make announcements and hype up the crowd.
- Have students play music to keep a lively and fun vibe.
- Hold a costume contest and award prizes for “most spirited” or “funniest outfit.”
- Students can go live on school’s social media channels, interview participants, share highlights, give shout outs to donors, making the event more accessible to your community.
- Capture the moments with a student photographer or Yearbook Club.

Celebrating After Your Cool School Challenge

- Host an awards ceremony to recognize top fundraisers, best costumes, or “most spirited” participants.
- Organize post-plunge party with hot cocoa and snack station to warm up and celebrate.
- Have student videographers create a recap video of the plunge, highlighting the event’s best moments and showcasing the funds raised.
- Post student experiences and highlights on social media.
- Hold an all school assembly for students to learn about the impact of their fundraising. Special Olympics Illinois staff and athletes can speak and thank students for their efforts.
- Have a feedback session to discuss the event and build anticipation for an even more successful event in the future.

To learn more or complete your interest form, please contact Debbie at dkelly@soill.org