

# Special Olympics Massachusetts *Schools Newsletter*

## Things to Know

- National Banner Applications
- Information for Liaisons
- Unified Sports
- Middle School Summit
- April Spotlight

## National Banner Application Is Open Until June 2nd!

If you are interested in seeing if your school is a contender for receiving National Banner status, applications are now open until June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm. Eligible applicants are those schools that have been a Unified Champion School for 2 years or more along with schools from the banner class of 21 renewing their status.

- Please read these [10 Middle & High School Standards](#). Ten standards of excellence were developed by a national panel of leaders in education and Special Olympics. When the standards have been met by a school, they are eligible to receive national banner recognition.
- Contact [schools@specialolympicsma.org](mailto:schools@specialolympicsma.org) before you consider applying.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

### 2025 Timeline

**MARCH 31st**, APPLICATIONS OPEN

*\*for both NEW schools and schools that are reapplying (every 4 years)*

**JUNE 2nd**, 5PM - APPLICATIONS CLOSE

**JUNE**- STATE SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMS REVIEW APPLICATIONS

**JULY**- NATIONAL CERTIFYING BODY REVIEWS APPLICATIONS

**BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER**- SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

**SPRING 2026**- APPLICATIONS REOPEN

## Liaisons - Please Be on the Look Out! 👁️

The Unified Champion Schools Liaison Survey from UMASS Boston was sent on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025; it will close on **Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. Each school has a unique link, and the link cannot be shared with anyone other than the listed liaison contact. If you need to collaborate on the survey with another person, please email [yu.xia@umb.edu](mailto:yu.xia@umb.edu).

This annual evaluation of the UCS program is required by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education is carried out at multiple levels. They did heed the request to shorten this survey!

The survey will come from this address ([sounifiedchampionschools@qualtrics-survey.com](mailto:sounifiedchampionschools@qualtrics-survey.com)). Please add the survey program's email address to your "safe sender list" or check your spam folder. Thank you in advance!

If you have questions, please e-mail [schools@specialolympicsma.org](mailto:schools@specialolympicsma.org)

## Unified Sports

### Unified Strength & Conditioning

We had another successful season of keeping our students healthy and fit!

Congratulations to the following schools with the highest scores:

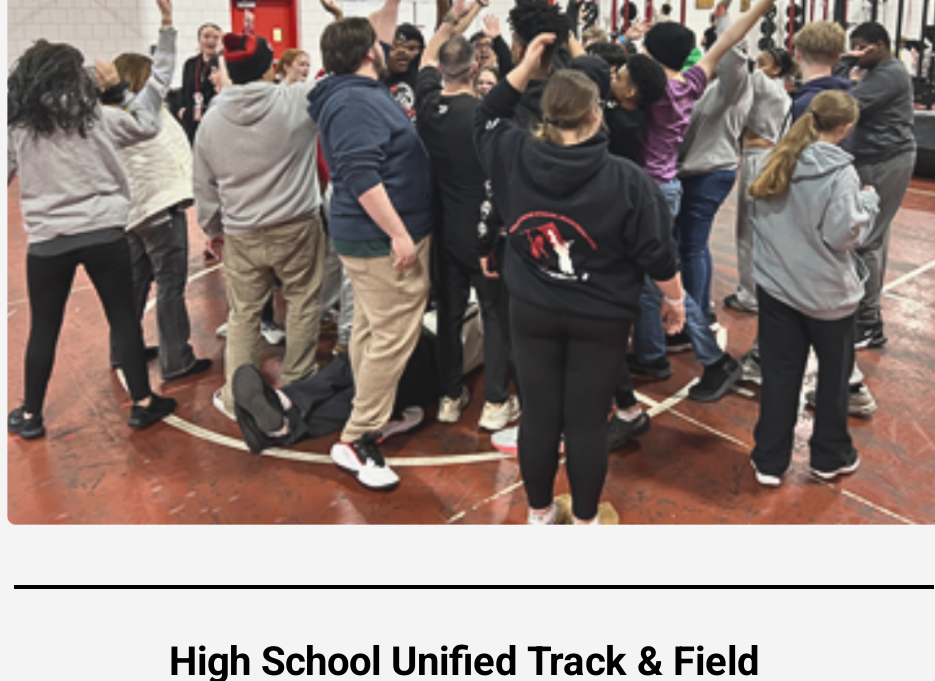
**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Wareham High School

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Fairhaven High School

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – North Middlesex Regional High School

**4<sup>th</sup> Place** – Hopkinton High School

**5<sup>th</sup> Place** – Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School



### High School Unified Track & Field

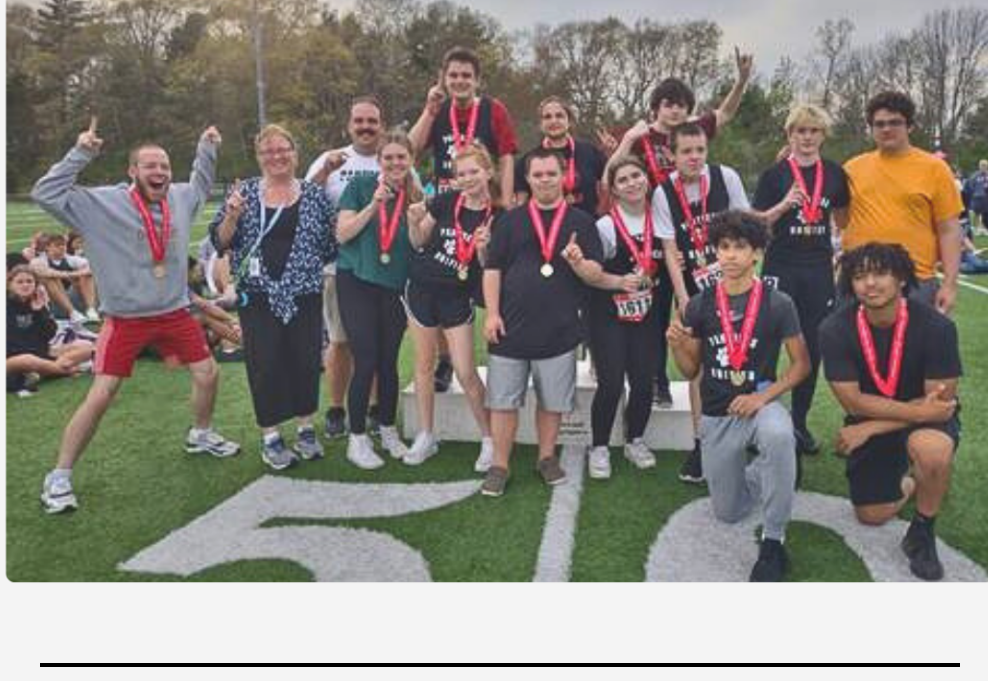
The season is going strong despite the weather. Thank you coaches for supporting the students through the rain and snow.

#### Dates and Deadline reminders

- Rosters on [Unified Google pages](#) – **due now**.
- Intent to Enter responses – **due now**.
- Sectional Meet Entry Deadline Times/distances for all students participating in the Sectional Meets must be submitted via Athletic.net by 11:59pm on the deadlines.
  - April 30<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm (for meets taking place May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm (for meets taking place May 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>)
- [Sportsmanship Nominations](#) May 9<sup>th</sup>
- State Championship Meet May 28<sup>th</sup>, Rain date June 3<sup>rd</sup>

All Information can be found on the [MIAA Unified Track page](#) and [2025 Unified Track and Field Format](#)

Please reach out with any questions [kathy.lutz@specialolympicsma.org](mailto:kathy.lutz@specialolympicsma.org)



### Middle School Unified Basketball

Congratulations to the 60 teams that participated in the Middle School Unified Basketball Season. We celebrated the post season with 12 Jamborees!



## Middle School Summit a Success!

Our YAC provided a great day of fun while sharing the fundamental principals of leadership skills with middle school students. The highlight of the day was our very own Marathon runner Conrad Miller-Fabregas. Conrad shared about his Genius Gene!



We'll be cheering for Conrad on April 21st as he makes his way to Boston!!!

## Spotlight of the Month

Massachusetts Association of Student Council, MASC met again on the shores of Craigville Beach in Hyannis to jump in the ocean as they kick off their annual Conference. Over 750 students dressed up in all manner of ways to show their spirit. Together students reached the exceeded goal with over 110k donations that will support programming throughout the year.

**We thank the students for freezin' for a reason!**



[Middle School Playbook](#)

[High School Playbook](#)