

Special Olympics Massachusetts *Schools Newsletter*

Things to Know

- End-of-the Year Surveys
- National Banner Applications
- Unified Sports
- YAC
- Fall Registration

HIGH IMPORTANCE:

Liaisons - Please Complete Two End-of-the Year Surveys Due June 6th

Survey #1: The Unified Champion Schools Liaison Survey from UMASS

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!

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

The survey will come from this address (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!**

Survey #2 : Special Olympics MA Liaison Survey

This survey provides important information for our local SOMA Team about what your school accomplished this year in the 3 UCS Components: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement. This survey confirms your UCS status and helps our team identify how we can support you in the next school year.

Fill Out The Survey!

If you have questions, please e-mail schools@specialolympicsma.org

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 2nd 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 before you consider applying.

Apply NOW

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



Unified Sports

High School Unified Track & Field

On to Sectionals!

Reminders

- All teams are to complete their Rosters on [Unified Google pages](#) – due **April 11th**.
- Sectionals – **May 8th through May 15th**
- State Championship Meet **May 28th**, Rain date June 3rd

Unified Track and Field State championship gear [sold here!](#) (and on location 5/28).

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



High School Youth Leadership YAC Applications Due May 30th

What is a YAC?

The Special Olympics Youth Activation Council (YAC) is a group of young people, both with and without intellectual disabilities, who work together to promote social inclusion and advocate for acceptance and respect within their schools and communities. They act as agents of change, educating and motivating youth, and developing leadership skills through various initiatives and events.

The commitment of the YAC is to attend regularly scheduled meetings, attend additional speaking engagements, workshops, and plan youth summits. Our group of members are from a various schools in Massachusetts and we meet once a month. Download this form and submit

to kathy.lutz@specialolympicsma.org.

SOMA YAC Application Form for 25-26

If you have questions, please contact kathy.lutz@specialolympicsma.org



Fall Unified Sports Registration Due June 13th

Each season we request each school to fill out their registration ahead of the season. Please fill out this form before the deadline.

- High School Unified Basketball Registration due **June 13th**
- Middle School Bocce Registration due **June 13th**

Register NOW!

[Middle School Playbook](#)

[High School Playbook](#)