

Special Olympics Massachusetts

Middle & High School Newsletter

Final Call for National Banner Applications!

due May 8, 2026 (tomorrow!)

If you have been a Unified Champion School for a minimum of 2 years, you are eligible to apply. All banner schools from the 2022 cycle (banners ready 2021-2025) are now eligible to renew their status this 2026 cycle!

The Special Olympics National School Recognition Programs provides an opportunity for schools across the U.S. to be acknowledged for their achievements with inclusion and their partnership with Special Olympics.

2026 Application Process Timeline:

- March 23, 9AM ET - Applications open *for both NEW schools and schools that are reapplying (every 4 years)
- **May 8, 5PM ET - Applications close**
- May & June - State Special Olympics Programs Review Applications
- July - National Certifying Body reviews applications
- Early September - Schools are notified
- Spring 2027 - Applications reopen

IMPORTANT NOTE: The 2026 application is based on activities which took place during the 2025-26 school year and years prior.

Before Applying:

- Please read the [MS & HS standards](#)
- Contact schools@specialolympicsma.org before you consider applying

[Apply Here!](#)



High School Unified Track and Field

The Unified Track post season is already here! All teams have been hustling all season to improve their times and distances in preparation for the season ending meets!

Unified Track and Field Sectionals:

- May 5th at Millbury HS
- May 6th at Lincoln-Sudbury HS
- May 7th at Durfee HS
- May 8th at Middleboro HS
- May 11th at Walpole HS
- May 13th at Holyoke HS

Unified Track and Field State Competition: May 27th at Natick HS

Thank you to our generous hosts and all volunteers for providing great competitions! Best of luck to all teams!

REMINDER: Team Sportsmanship Award Nominations
due May 8th (tomorrow!)

Thinking about your Unified Track and Field season? Did you notice any teams that exemplified outstanding sportsmanship? We are looking for teams that were models of teamwork, respect for both their own team and the opposing team, exemplified fair play, ethics, and good sportsmanship. If a team comes to mind, please consider nominating them for this award! Self-nomination are also acceptable!

[Nominate Here!](#)



Unified Basketball for Fall 2026 Season!

due June 5, 2026

[Basketball Sign Ups Here!](#)



Middle School Bocce for Fall 2026 Season!

due June 5, 2026

Season takes place during month of October.

[Bocce Sign Ups Here!](#)



UMASS Boston End of Year Survey!

Thank You!

Thank you, Unified Champion School Liaisons for completing these two VERY important surveys to report on your school's Unified Programming!

Survey #1, UMASS Survey: This survey has been emailed to all UCS Liaisons. For 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

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

Survey #2, SOMA Liaison Survey: This survey is designed to help us learn what you are accomplishing in your schools areas of Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and whole school engagement!

[25-26 School Year Survey!](#)

Have questions? Email us at schools@specialolympicsma.org

Address: 512 Forest Street, Marlborough MA 01752
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