



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
 Schools**



2021-2022 school year
Unified Sports® Interscholastic Track & Field
Application Form

Deadline: Friday, December 3rd, 2021

School Name:

School Address:

Athletic Director:

Email:

Phone:

Signature:

Date:

Liaison in school:

Job title at school:

Email:

Signature

Phone:

Coach:

Email:

Signature

Phone:

Student Contact:

Email:

Date:

Signature

Phone:

Principal:

Email:

Date:

Signature:

Phone:

Date:

Please return form to:

Kathleen Lutz at Kathy.Lutz@specialolympicsma.org

Phone: 508-485-0986 Fax: 508-481-0786

Special Olympics Massachusetts (SOMA) 512 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

Signatures on this application are a formal expression of your school's commitment to a 3-year program of inclusion, acceptance and respect of all students through the implementation of the 3 components of the Unified Champion Schools Program. Please see below the requirements of your school.



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SOMA Unified Sports© Track & Field Team Leagues will be based upon successful Special Olympics programs using the principles and programs of Unified Champion Schools©, Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules and guidelines, and the support, backing and engagement of the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (MASC) as the core. Unified Sports® leagues will strive to help promote climates of dignity, respect, and inclusion in schools for students with and without intellectual disabilities.

School Teams that are accepted as a new school in the 2020- 2021 school year will **commit to a 3 year program**. Each year will have the following **general timeline**:

- October-January: acceptance and confirmation of schools.
- April: attend a Youth Leadership Conference developed and run by the SOMA Youth Activation Council.
- February/ March: Conduct R-Word events. Whole school awareness campaigns.
- April– Unified Sports® Track & Field teams begin training and league play.
- May/June – Unified Sports® Interscholastic Track & Field League Meets, Sectionals and State Championship.

Grant Funding: High schools that are accepted will be awarded, in the first year, \$2000.00 for equipment, uniforms, transportation and resources; upon successful completion of the first year they will be given preferential consideration for a second year of \$1000.00 funding (based on need and available funding); and by the third year will have become self-sustaining.

Requirements: Schools must commit to the minimum criteria listed in the Criteria checklist below and the policies and guidelines of SOMA and the MIAA but are encouraged to add in programs, events and ideas that promote inclusion and the active collaboration and engagement of the entire student body.

Unified Sports® Interscholastic Track & Field Team Criteria

Each checkbox is a required element. Schools are encouraged to add to this list.

INCLUSIVE SPORTS

- Unified Sports® Track & Field Team – Following policies of SOMA & MIAA
- Participate in Unified Sports© Track & Field leagues and championship meets
- Participate in an evaluation process in the spring

YOUTH LEADERSHIP and YOUTH ACTIVATION

- Attend Youth Leadership Conference featuring Schools & Unified Sports® training
- Provide monthly updates to SOMA on the program

WHOLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

- Organize & conduct a Spread the Word Event that includes the whole school community

Grant Funding - \$2000 per school for first year

\$1000 per school for second year

Limited to the following Unified Champion Schools related programs & initiatives

- Equipment/uniforms for Track & Field team
- Transportation expenses to UCS Unified Sports® Interscholastic Track & Field League events
- Materials for Spread the Word to End the Word & GII projects
- Stipends for Coach-Coordinator / Faculty-Advisors
- Other reasonable Unified Champion Schools related expenses with prior approval