



## CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### **Special Olympics Awards Canton High School Unified Champion Status *CHS is one of 22 Schools in Massachusetts to Earn Recognition***

For Immediate Release  
September 25, 2023

CANTON, Mass.—Canton Public Schools has been recognized for its commitment to inclusion, earning National Banner School status by Special Olympics for its unified sports programs. Canton High School is one of just 22 schools in Massachusetts – and one of 205 nationwide – to be honored as a [Special Olympics Unified Champion School®](#).

“The athletes, partners, students, coaches, volunteers, teachers, staff and administration at Canton High School have all played key roles in creating a social climate where everyone feels included and respected for who they are. We are honored to have such a strong and fully inclusive school as yours be recognized a second time for the hard work and dedication you demonstrate daily to continuously grow and strengthen your program,” said Patti Doherty, vice president of Schools and Community Development for Special Olympics Massachusetts.

“This is truly an important honor for Canton Public Schools because it validates the efforts of our teachers, students and staff to create an inclusive, welcoming culture for everyone,” said Canton High School Principal Jeffrey Sperling. Special Olympics allows school districts that have previously been awarded National Banner status to reapply after four years. Canton previously earned the recognition in 2019.

Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences. Unified sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

In addition to its co-ed unified basketball team, CHS has unified track and field and robotics teams. The district has also initiated a unified basketball team at the Galvin Middle School and is working on a unified bocce team for the middle school. “We are extremely proud of the commitment the district has made to this programming. It benefits our entire community and showcases our mission, vision and core values,” said Meghan Byrne, director of Student Services for Canton Schools.

Media Contact:  
Matt Ellis  
Ellis Strategies, Inc.  
617.278.6560 | [matt@ellisstrategies.com](mailto:matt@ellisstrategies.com)

*About the Canton Public Schools:*

*The Canton Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability or homelessness. Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). Learn more at [www.cantonma.org](http://www.cantonma.org).*

###

***The Canton Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability or homelessness.  
Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)***