

**Franklin Public Schools  
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038**

**Action Required**

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**Subject:**

Out of State/Overnight Travel

**Date:**

January 11, 2022

**Dept:**

Oak Street

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**Reason:**

Past practice of the Committee requires a vote to allow students/staff to travel outside of the State/Country

**Enclosure**

Yes

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**Background**

**Recommendation:**

Unified Basketball Field trip

I recommend approval of the request of Lisa Burger to take 10 Unified Basketball students to Orlando, Florida from June 4-12, 2022 to represent Massachusetts in the USA Special Olympic Games 2022 as detailed.

**Action Requested of the School Committee:**

Majority vote of the Committee is required.

<u><b>Vote Tabulator</b></u>	
C. Bernstein:     Y / N	D. McNeill:     Y / N
D. Callaghan:     Y / N	M. Whitmore:     Y / N
Al Charles:     Y / N	D Spencer:     Y / N
E Stokes:     Y / N	Action: _____



## ***Franklin Public Schools***

*Office of the Superintendent  
355 East Central Street; Suite 3  
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038  
Phone: 508-553-4819*

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To: Franklin School Committee

From: Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools and Paula Marano, Director of Student Services

Date: January 5, 2022

Re: Out-of-State and Extended Field Trip Permission

Policy IJOAA – Field Trips and Policy IJOAB – Extended Field Trips are relevant policies that describe the purpose, expectations, and process of securing approval for field trips, including out-of-state and extended field trips in the Franklin Public Schools. Any trip that is out-of-state and/or includes overnight accommodations requires School Committee approval.

Mr. Angelo and Mr. Hanna strongly support and advocate for this field trip. Ms. Marano and I proudly recommend the approval of the extended field trip for members of the Unified Basketball team, which has been selected by Special Olympics MA to represent the state of Massachusetts in Florida in June as detailed. This trip is inclusive of school days, which is not customarily allowed, but I ask that you make an exception since we permit other field trips that are closely aligned to the curriculum and learning goals of students to occur during the school day and we view this as consistent with those events.

Dear Dr. Ahern,

I hope this letter and following proposal finds you well. On behalf of the students and coaches selected as the Massachusetts Delegation for the Special Olympics USA Games 2022, I would like to ask for your approval and support as we take this opportunity to have our students participate on the biggest stage imaginable to demonstrate the importance and emphasis on inclusion that this district provides.

### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:**

Person Presenting the Proposal: Lisa Burger, District BCBA and Unified Sports Coach at Franklin High School

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

The Unified Basketball Team at Franklin High School is seeking approval and support for a select group of 10 students (6 athletes and 4 partners) to participate in the upcoming USA Special Olympic Games 2022 as the Massachusetts Delegation for Interscholastic Unified Basketball. This event will take place on June 4-12, 2022 in Orlando, Florida. The team is composed of 5 Seniors (that would participate in graduation prior to departure); 2 Juniors, and 3 Fifth Year Students in the Transitions program at Franklin High School. We are in full understanding that students would need to be in good academic standing in order to participate in this event.

As per the Special Olympics, students would be required to travel with 2 coaches for the duration of the event. In addition, the team is expected to spend one-night (TBD on a weekend) in Massachusetts for training with the entire Massachusetts Delegation representing at the 2022 Games.

All events are fully funded by the Special Olympics in regards to hotel, travel and meal plan that includes 3 meals per day.

### **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE CURRICULUM AND DISTRICT GOALS:**

This opportunity presented to us not only supports our district's efforts and emphasis on inclusion, but also provides a valuable life experience for our students that reflects the principles of the Franklin Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate.

The beginning of the quote that aligns with our Districts Improvement Plan starts with "If we nurture a safe, supportive, inclusive learning environment....". Over the last 5-6 years, our Unified Sports Program at FHS has taken that statement to include more than just the 4 walls of our classrooms and has provided an outlet for all students with and without disabilities to play sports on one team in order to gain confidence, build self esteem and "challenge students to reach their full potential through personalize learning" about each others differences and still build lasting friendships and acceptance. As a program we have "built two-way communication with the community in order to support student growth" through social skills development, building resilience and acceptance of all learners together. The social emotional growth this program brings to all its participants (students with and without disabilities) will allow them to accept everyone as they continue to embark on their future endeavors and become "productive citizens in an ever changing world." Due to this, our students have set a high bar for their peers across the state and are role models for inclusion and acceptance. As a result, they are being provided this opportunity to demonstrate the high level of excellence we promote in Franklin on the biggest stage that Unified and Inclusionary Sports can provide.

As these students reflect on their high school journeys, that in the frameworks of the Portrait of the Graduate they:

1. Are empowered and self aware individuals who all demonstrate resilience and perseverance to get to this selection and opportunity. This opportunity will allow them to continue to access their strength in being open minded and supporting all individuals, as well as identify areas of growth, passions, and interests.
2. Are Empathetic and Productive Citizens who continually are role models and learn additional ways as a team to demonstrate social awareness through inclusivity and supporting one another in their own views, strengths and challenges. This opportunity will allow these students to gain more knowledge, competition and inclusion from other individuals across the country.
3. Are curious and creative thinkers as they embark on an opportunity to ask questions about bigger inclusive opportunities than we can provide in the walls of the school. It will also allow them to learn more about

themselves as individuals and how to further support one another with and without disabilities. The goal of this is to continue to encourage our students to take initiative to help one another be stronger individuals, take risks, and support social emotional growth in a real life experience.

4. Are effective communicators and collaborators, which is the basis of the program and reason for our selection. This opportunity will allow students to continue to grow and expand their ability to communicate with one another through life opportunities of travel, at a higher level of competition, and in real life experiences.
5. And lastly are reflective and innovative problem solvers in their abilities to work together and foster friendships, skills while playing and make on the moment decisions to help others be successful.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our Franklin Students chosen to represent the numerous other students that participate in our Unified Program to put on display the high values of inclusion and importance of accepting all individuals (with and without disabilities) that we emphasize everyday in our work within the Franklin Public Schools. Thank you in advance for considering this proposal and opportunity for our Franklin Students to display with excellence at the USA Special Olympic Games 2022.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Burger, MA, BCBA, LABA  
FHS Unified Sports Coach

**LIST OF STUDENTS/COACHES TO PARTICIPATE:**

Lisa Burger, Coach  
Jeremy Rice, Coach

