



REQUEST FOR NAMING RIGHTS FORM

Date of Request: April 6, 2026
Requested by: Eastern High School Alumni Association
Requested area to be named: Eastern High School Track
Non-funded request in honor of: Edward E. Townsend
Funded or in-kind request donation in honor of: _____
Amount of donation (if applicable): _____

Facilities, or any portion thereof, managed by the Lansing School District Board of Education may be named for distinguished persons who have outstanding historical contributions to the school district, state or nation. Geographic or regional names may also be considered for new school buildings. These names should be clearly identifying, widely known, and recognized. All names should reflect the values of the community.

Nominations for Funded Naming:

Groups or individuals may initiate a request to name a specific area/facility of a school for individual or business sponsors who are contributing substantially in-kind or by way of a cash donation for the benefit of a school or the school district.

The School Board shall retain the final authority to choose the appropriate name for facilities, or any portion thereof, managed by the School Board based upon the recommendation of the naming committee consistent with the values of the community.

Date Request Received by Naming Committee: _____

Request Approved On: _____

Signature of Naming Committee Representative: _____

Approved by School Board On: _____

Eastern Track

It is the alumni's request that we name the new Track for Edward E. Townsend, former History teacher and Track & Field and Cross-Country Coach from 1963 until his retirement in 1993. Coach Townsend touched the lives of many great athletes and teams over the 30 years he was at Eastern. He coached countless hours while at the track and on the course, mapping out routes throughout the city of Lansing that would benefit his athletes in competition. He was an athlete himself, logging the same miles with his team, offering advice while using tested strategies that he himself used as an NCAA champion at Michigan State University. Always positive, tough, encouraging, documenting stats, keeping track of workouts and progress, with a stopwatch in hand.

Ed Townsend:

Lansing Everett High School

Cross Country & Track 1947-1950

Team Captain-1950

Cross Country All-State, 2nd place-1950

Michigan State University

Only MSU Athlete in history to be on 4 Big Ten Championship teams (XC) in the same sport
3 National Championship Teams in Cross-Country, 1952, 1955, 1956

Lansing Eastern High School

History Teacher, 1963-1993

Head Cross-Country Coach, 1963-1993

Assistant Track Coach, 1963-1969

Head Track Coach, 1969-1979

Many Conference Championships and Invitationals, Track & Field

2 straight Greater Lansing Championship Titles, Cross-Country

Mentored countless student athletes throughout their high school career

Dear Members of the Eastern High School Alumni Association,

When we learned that the Lansing School District would be considering naming the track at Eastern in honor of our father, Edward Eugene Townsend, we were deeply moved. The news brought us great joy, and we know our father would have been both humbled and truly honored by such recognition.

Those who knew our dad understood the depth of his dedication. He served Eastern High School as both a teacher and coach for 30 years, devoting himself fully to his students and athletes. He gave generously of his time, energy, and talents, always striving to help others reach their fullest potential—both on and off the field.

His commitment led not only to successful track and cross-country programs, but also to lasting relationships and a meaningful, enduring impact. Over the years, many of his former students and athletes have reached out to share how profoundly he influenced their lives—not only during their time at Eastern, but long afterward.

As his children, we have often experienced moments when a chance meeting with someone new turns into a heartfelt story about how our father had once been their coach or teacher—even decades later.

We believe that honoring him in this way would be a fitting and lasting tribute. It would celebrate his legacy while serving as a symbol of excellence, dedication, and inspiration for current and future generations of student-athletes.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
The Children of Edward Eugene Townsend

Thomas E. Townsend
Jean A. Hagy (Townsend)
Cindy L. Ramirez (Townsend)
Robert M. Townsend