



## 2024 Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair Information for Non-FCPS Schools

DATE: September 20, 2023  
TO: Science Fair Directors, Non-FCPS Schools  
FROM: Michelle Gilligan and Ann Wong, Science Fair Directors  
SUBJ: Information for independent schools intending to participate in the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair being held March 2024

### **Mandatory Information Sessions**

The Fairfax County Regional Fair Directors will offer a virtual session on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:00 PM to review the schedule, deadlines, Regional procedures, required ISEF forms, and to answer any questions you may have. This is required for ALL independent schools. Please contact us by November 1<sup>st</sup>, to confirm your attendance and receive the virtual link.

### **State And International Fairs**

Participation in the Virginia State Science Fair (Date: April 12-13, 2024) and in the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (Date: May 15-17, 2024) is limited to students who earn meritorious entry through the Regional Fair. If a non-FCPS student or team is awarded the Grand Prize and is moved forward to attend the International Fair, any associated expenses for that student(s) will be the responsibility of the home school or district. Similarly, for non-FCPS students nominated for the State Science and Engineering Fair, any associated expenses will be the responsibility of the home school or district.

Thus, in order for students to participate at Regionals, your school (NOT the students' families) must formally commit to pay approximately \$2000 to finance a trip to ISEF, should the student or team win a grand prize at the Regional fair.

**This commitment must be made in writing to the Science Fair Directors Michelle Gilligan ([mpgilligan@fcps.edu](mailto:mpgilligan@fcps.edu)) and Ann Wong ([anwong@fcps.edu](mailto:anwong@fcps.edu)).**

### **Meritorious Entry to The Regional Fair Through a School Fair**

Per ISEF regulations, the only way a student can earn entry to the Fairfax County Regional Fair is through merit. The student must win at a local (school) fair to qualify for Regionals. This means that the school must host a fair following all ISEF regulations and then send their top

project(s) to compete at the Regional fair according to the determined project allocation, as provided annually by the Regional Fair Directors.

In addition, a Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and possibly an Independent Review Board (IRB) is required to review and approve student projects prior to research to ensure they comply with ISEF rules. The Adult Sponsor and/or SRC/IRB must complete all approve all student-submitted [ISEF project forms](https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/forms/) (https://www.societyforscience.org/isef/forms/) before experimentation may begin.

The Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair is limited to Senior Division projects, students enrolled in grade 9-12 only.

### Important Dates

Date	Event
November 1, 2023	Date by which Non-FCPS Fair Directors should contact Fairfax Fair Directors to confirm their attendance at the Mandatory Session
November 9, 2023	Mandatory Information Session for Independent Schools
December 1, 2023	Paperwork due for <i>early</i> SRC consultation
December 1, 2023	SRC/IRB Membership/Registration Form and School Participation Form due to Fairfax Fair Directors
February 2, 2024	All School Science Fairs must be completed by this date. There are no extensions for inclement weather.
February 12, 2024	Student online project registration completed and all project paperwork must be uploaded to zFairs
March 15-17, 2024	Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair
April 2024	Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair
May 2024	Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair

Sincerely,

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