

# GEORGIA FAIR PARTICIPATION POLICY



All eligible middle and high school students in the state of Georgia should have access to the Science and Engineering Fair System regardless of the type of school they attend, including public, private, charter, magnet, home, and cyber schools, in accordance with state and federal laws. Regional Fairs are supported, coordinated, and sustained by colleges/universities, school boards, RESAs, STEM organizations, and/or other stakeholders local to the geographic region served. They affiliate with the Georgia Science & Engineering Fair (GSEF) to become part of the science fair system and allow students to advance to the state-level fair.

## **SCHOOL-LEVEL FAIRS: Determining Where Students Should Exhibit**

Students must exhibit at a school-level fair before being considered for a Regional Fair.

TYPE OF SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDS	WHAT STUDENT SHOULD DO
Participating school	Students who attend schools that offer a science fair must exhibit at that school fair.
Non-participating school	Individual students who attend schools that do not offer a science fair should follow the instructions below for independent home school students.
Independent home or cyber school	Independent home/cyber school students must request to participate in the School Fair of the public school to which they would have been assigned according to their legal place of residence. The request should be made before October 1 <sup>st</sup> . If that school does not offer a science fair, the student must contact the next closest school within the Region of the student's legal place of residence, as measured by Google Maps shortest distance. If this second school also does not offer a science fair, contact the appropriate Regional Fair Director (see map) for further instructions. The decision of the Regional Fair Director is final. Attempts at "fair shopping" may result in disqualification.
Recognized home or cyber school group	A recognized home/cyber group of sufficient size* may elect to request that its own school-level fair (including a properly constituted SRC/IRB), be considered for affiliation with the Regional Fair of the Region in which it exists. The request should be made before October 1 <sup>st</sup> . Affiliation decisions are at the discretion of the Regional Fair Director. If the Regional Fair agrees to affiliate the new fair, students of that home/cyber school group may advance to Regional only through that fair; no individual student from that group may try to advance to any Regional Fair by any other path -- attempts to bypass this rule may result in disqualification of the individual and revocation of the group's affiliation.

## **REGIONAL FAIRS: Determining Where Students Should Exhibit**

Students must exhibit at a school-level fair before being considered for a Regional Fair (see above).

TYPE OF SCHOOL STUDENT ATTENDS	WHICH REGIONAL FAIR STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND
Public, private, charter, or magnet school, or an affiliated home/cyber group	A student who attends any of these schools may exhibit only in the Regional Fair in which the school is located.
Independent home or cyber school	Student may exhibit only in the Regional Fair of the region in which the student's legal place of residence is located.
Recognized home or cyber school group whose fair is officially affiliated with a Regional Fair	Student may exhibit only in the Regional Fair with which their group's school fair is officially affiliated.
<p><b>A Note Regarding Teams:</b> Per ISEF regulations, if a project involves a team, then the assigned Regional Fair of the designated Team Leader is the only Regional Fair in which the team may participate.</p> <p>A team member or leader who moves out of a region after a project is completed, or nearly completed, may exhibit at the Regional Fair with the team, provided he/she has not done a subsequent science project at the new school and entered the project into any level of science fair.</p>	

**Teams in which one team member attends school out-of-state:** 1) may not be eligible for competition in a Regional Fair; contact the Regional Fair of the in-state team member for clarification; 2) may be eligible to compete at GSEF provided the Regional Fair has selected the team to advance, but may not be eligible to receive certain special awards; and 3) must designate a student who attends school in-state as the Team Leader.

Per ISEF regulations, "Students may compete in only one ISEF affiliated fair, except when proceeding to a state/national fair affiliated with ISEF from an affiliated regional fair."

Visit [www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gsef](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/gsef) for a complete list of Regional Fairs and Fair Directors.

\* Contact Regional Fair or GSEF for definition.