

Student Eligibility Policy

Students are eligible for participation in the Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair (MSEF) and Affiliated Regional Fairs based on their enrollment in a Massachusetts High School regardless of their state of residency.

Students from a Massachusetts High School are eligible for competition in MSEF either by direct entry from their enrolled high school or by participation in their school's Regional Fair. Upon entry in MSEF or a MSEF affiliated fair, the student agrees not to participate in a science fair competition in another state or country, within the same year, in accordance with the MSEF Ethics Statement.

All student projects must go through the **Regional Fair** approval systems to participate in either pathway.

1. Regional Fair Promotion: Through competition at a Regional Fair, top scoring projects are awarded eligibility to enter the statewide Massachusetts Science & Engineering Fair (MSEF) as well as the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) or Broadcom for Middle School.

- This is the primary pathway for State Fair participation. Through the Regional Science Fairs, students have the advantage of gaining feedback from expert judges on how to improve their projects and presentation, enabling students to refine their work before the statewide Science Fair.
- Due to the timing of the High School Fairs, it is not possible to qualify for ISEF at the statewide fair. However, if you become a delegate for ISEF you must still attend MSEF.
- Eligible Students will receive further instructions to confirm their participation in the statewide fair. Confirmation must be received by deadlines given or they forfeit their chance to participate.

2. Direct Entry: In addition to projects awarded entry in the statewide fair, each high school may send up to two additional student projects (either individual or team projects). Each middle school may send one additional project.

- To qualify for direct entry, a student must **already have their project approved by the Regional SRC**. This includes any pre-approvals that were required BEFORE experimentation if the project involved any of the restricted areas of research. *If these steps were not taken, the project is not eligible for statewide fair participation.*
- Students must be **signed up through their school** to participate. High School Only: Direct entry names/projects must be provided and confirmed by the school to MSEF at de@scifair.com within 5 school days after the date of your regional fair award ceremony. Review these dates at the regional zFairs site.