

About the Fair:

What is the "Science Fair"?

The BCSF is an annual four days of public display and competition of science projects of students from all parts of Broward County in February. Many Science Fair participants are recognized for their achievement with ribbons, certificates, plaques, trophies, exciting free trips, cash awards, scholarships, job experiences, opportunities to compete in state and international competitions and more. The BCSF is only part of Science Fair Competition (see below for more details).

Who can participate?

Broward County public, charter, and private school students in grades 6 through 12 selected by his or her school. All private and charter schools must affiliate by paying a fee for involvement. This fee will assist in covering the operation expenses of the regional fair. For information on affiliation fees and deadlines, click "Charter Schools" or "Private & Parochial Schools" on the left hand navigation bar.

What if my school does not have a fair?

If you are private or charter, you would need to affiliate first: For information on affiliation fees and deadlines, click "Charter Schools" or "Private & Parochial Schools" on the left hand navigation bar.

If you are a public school, all schools may participate in the fair. Interested parents or teachers should contact the school principal and set up a program at your school. Assistance in setting up a program at a school may be found by contacting JP Keener at jpkeneer@browardschools.com.

The School Board of Broward County STONGLY encourages all schools to participate in this level of scientific research and application.

What is the Structure of Science Fair Competition?

There are FOUR (4) separate competitions:

1. School Level Fair: May be classroom or school level fair. Outstanding students are invited to the BCSF. **School level fairs must be held in December or early January. This enables students the ability to register in time for the Regional Fair (BCSF).**

2. Regional Fair: The Broward County Science Fair (BCSF) is a regional level fair. BCSF is called a Secondary Fair because it involves students in grades 6-12. There is also a separate Broward County Academic Fair where grades K-5 science fair projects may be exhibited. The Academic Fair has its own set of Rules and is not affiliated with further competitions such as SSEF or Intel ISEF.

Junior Division is for students in grades 6-8 (middle school) and Senior Division is for students in grades 9-12 (high school).

3. State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida (SSEF): SSEF is a state level science fair. **If funding is available**, 48 outstanding projects from the **BCSF** (Junior and Senior Divisions) are selected to attend a three day State Fair at a different state location each year to compete against other top students from across the state of Florida. Top ranked projects from the Senior Division and Top ranked projects from the Junior Division are invited. <http://www.floridassef.net/>

If selected, all schools are expected to sponsor the student from their school, if county funding is not available. Private and Charter schools cover the cost of student participation.

4. Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) 2008: Intel ISEF, the "World's Series" of Science Fair competitions, is held annually with more than 900 student contestants from affiliated fairs in the United States and a number of foreign nations. It culminates a selection process involving thousands of school and regional fairs, their student participants, and their judges from science, medicine, engineering and education. The fair takes place in May each year. <http://www.societyforscience.org/ISEF/>

If selected, all schools are expected to sponsor the student from their school, if county funding is not available. Private and Charter schools cover the cost of student participation.

What are the Science Fair Categories?

The 13 categories for competition are as follows:

- Behavioral/Social Sciences
- Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Computer Sciences
- Botany
- Earth/Space Sciences
- Health/Medicine
- Engineering
- Microbiology
- Environmental Sciences
- Zoology
- Mathematics
- Physics

What Awards are given?

We do not give category awards at the regional fair. The regional fair gives awards for “overall” best projects. It is possible that some categories have no awards and other categories have many awards: The awards are determined by the ranking of the projects in comparison to every other project at the fair.

The regional fair gives:

1. First place ribbons
2. Second place ribbons
3. Third place ribbons
4. Fourth place ribbons
5. Participant ribbons
6. Special Awards*
7. Special ISEF awards*

**For information on Special Awards and Special ISEF Awards, click “BCSF Special Awards” on the left hand navigation bar.*

For a list of the places and awards for our current fair, click “Fair Result” on the left hand navigation bar.

Who do I contact if I have any questions or comments?

You may contact Dr. JP Keener at jpkeener@browardschools.com or call him at 754-321-1874