

Baltimore County Public Schools Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair

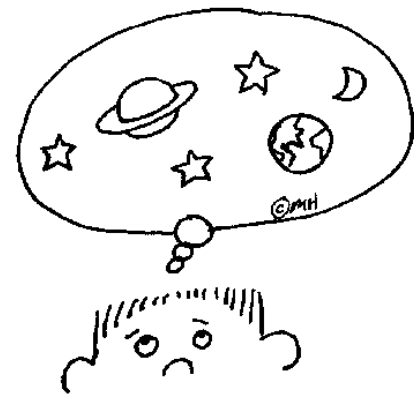
Project Guidelines and Regulations

Display and Safety All Projects

- A. Project display size is limited to 61 cm deep (24 inches); 95 cm wide (36 inches), side to side; and 274 cm high (108 inches) floor to top.
- B. A research report and/or logbook, including a bibliography, is required and should be displayed with the project.
- C. No materials or equipment used to conduct the experiment may be displayed with or attached to the project board. You may attach pictures or drawings to show the progress of the experiment.

Judging All Projects

- A. Each project will be checked by the Display and Safety Committee to be sure you have followed the rules for display and safety.
- B. You may not add to or change the project after approval by the Display and Safety Committee.
- C. If you are selected to represent your school at the Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair you must be available during the scheduled times for registration and judging.
- D. Only **individual projects** may be **submitted for competition** at the **Baltimore County Public Schools Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair**.



Project Guidelines

Your project will be either an **Experimental project** or an **Observational project**. It will be judged based on how well you have followed the guidelines for the type of project you choose to complete. The guidelines and regulations for both types of projects are described on the following page.

Experimental Projects

Experimental Projects are based on a testable question and includes a hypothesis; materials; procedure; independent, dependent, and control variables; data displayed in the form of a chart or graph; explanation of the results; and a conclusion that answers the question.



Project Approval

Students choosing to complete an **Experimental Project** should follow the guidelines below. Projects will be accepted based on approval by the Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair Approval Committee.

A. Acceptable examples of **Experimental Projects:**

Include any question that is answered by doing an experiment or investigation and includes the control of independent, dependent, and controlled variables.

B. Unacceptable examples of **Experimental Projects** include any question that involves:

- the growth of bacteria from our environment such as washed/unwashed hands, cutting boards, kitchen sponges (**safety concerns**)
- the use of vertebrate animals (including humans) as test subjects (**safety concerns**)
- the use of controlled substances such as drugs, alcohol, or dangerous chemicals (**safety concerns**)
- models or demonstrations such as volcanoes or solar systems

Observational Projects

Observational Projects are based on a question formed from prior observations and includes a hypothesis; data collected by scientists, observation, or surveys of people, animals, or the environment displayed in the form of a chart or graph; an explanation of the data identifying patterns and trends; and a conclusion that answers the question.

Project Approval

Students choosing to complete an **Observational Project** should follow the guidelines below. Projects will be accepted based on approval by the Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fair Approval Committee.

A. Acceptable examples of **Observational Projects:**

- Questions concerning weather patterns and cycles
- Questions concerning Astronomy patterns and cycles
- Physical Science questions using math concepts
- Environmental questions about vertebrate animal movements or behaviors (including humans)
- Pencil and Paper surveys or Opinion surveys
- Perception questions, such as color determination, presented without treatment



B. Unacceptable examples of **Observational Projects:**

- Any project that involves the giving of food, water, exercise, or learning to any vertebrate animal (including humans) (**safety concerns**)
- Narrative reports based on a collection of facts not centered on a question