

Massachusetts

Science Engineering Fair

2015 Middle School Manual

Sponsored by Cabot Corporation



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Middle School Fair

2015 Sponsors & Donors

Information for the Teacher

Choosing a Project Research Plan Research Regulations Project Display Guidelines Judging Timelines

MSSEF Structure & Governance

Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair, Inc.

Board of Directors

Middle School Fair Committee Staff,

Headquarters, Site Location

Massachusetts Middle School Regional Fairs Massachusetts Regional Fair Districts

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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> Award Recognition Ceremony Optical Society of America/New England Section

In Appreciation Worcester Technical High School, Worcester



ABOUT THE MSSEF STATEWIDE SCIENCE FAIRS

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

The Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair, Inc. (MSSEF) hosts two annual statewide Science & Engineering Fairs for students with the most outstanding research and invention projects from across the state. The MSSEF Middle School Science Fair is an annual one-day showcase event and competition for qualifying students in grades 6, 7, and 8 attending public, private, parochial schools or home schooled in the Commonwealth. The MSSEF Middle School Science Fair is sponsored by Cabot Corp., Boston and hosted by Worcester Technical High School. Administrative services are provided by the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester. The MSSEF Middle School Fair is one of the two statewide fair programs under the auspices of Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair, Inc. (MSSEF). The other science fair is for high school students and held annually on the MIT campus in Cambridge.

Entrants have spent months developing their projects, and at these culminating year-end events, they exhibit their projects to their peers, a team of judges and the public. This experience provides a unique opportunity for students to actively engage in the "real world" professional practices of scientists and engineers while investigating a question or problem in which he or she is interested.

Students may work on their project individually or as part of a team of two or three members. Students with the top 40 winning projects from each of the MA Regional Science Fairs may enter the MSSEF State Science Fair. Regional Science Fairs are held in the following six regions: North Adams, Worcester, Fall River, Lowell, Weston and Boston. In addition, each middle school in Massachusetts may send/enter one project to the State Science Fair. Check the MSSEF website for regional information (*http://masscifair.com/fairs/regional/ms-contacts*).

All required safety forms and student registration forms, described in the Research and Registration Forms section of this Manual, are also available on the <u>MSSEF website</u>: "The Fairs" tab, and then on drop-down menu click on Regional Fairs/Middle School Contacts (*http://massscifair.com/fairs/regional/ms-contacts*). Required forms must be submitted by the dates included in the Timelines section of this Manual. Note: The location of the student's school determines which will be the correct Regional Science Fair.



S U P P O R T I N G



FOUNDATION

Supporting STEM Education. Science is exciting! That's the message Biogen Idec seeks to impart to the numerous school-age children we help teach and inspire. The long-term ability of our company and our industry to achieve breakthroughs in biotechnology and explore cutting-edge science and medicine depends on the drive, dedication, creativity and educational excellence of future scientists.



As a leading high-technology company and employer headquartered in Hopkinton, MA., EMC Corporation relies on an innovative and skilled workforce to compete in the global economy. EMC is committed to investing time, talent and financial resources to engage students and encourage science, technology, engineering and mathematics education as the foundation needed for the technology innovation and engineering workforce of tomorrow, in Massachusetts, and around the world.



Gelfand Family Charity Trust strives to provide hands-on STEM enrichment for middleand high-school students. One of the most effective ways to accomplish that mission is through the support of the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair. Visit us at www.gfct.us.



Intel is transforming the lives of millions by working with countries, communities, and schools worldwide to bring the resources and solutions needed for advancing education. Intel collaborates with governments and policy-makers to turn their vision into reality. Technology that brings quality education to more people, while sustaining local communities and economies, is Intel's unwavering commitment. Over the past decade, Intel has invested over \$1 billion dollars and close to 3 million employee volunteer hours to improve teaching and learning environments in 70+ countries.



The University of Massachusetts Boston is Boston's only public university. Our College of Science and Mathematics offers a full spectrum of science and mathematics degrees, including our newest four-year degrees in computer and electrical engineering. Located on Boston Harbor, we have developed unique research expertise in coastal environmental sciences, conservation biology, and green chemistry. Our active research faculty offers you both a solid foundation in experimental research and a warm introduction to the science community. We serve more than 16,000 students in our eleven colleges and graduate schools. Each year, UMass Boston offers a full scholarship to the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair winner who attends our university. Visit us at www.umb.edu.



At Cabot, our commitment to sustainability extends beyond our manufacturing facilities. We want to make a positive and lasting difference in the communities where we operate. A vital part of this commitment is evidenced through our philanthropic activities, which give priority to programs that educate young people in the fields of science and technology. As one of the world's leading chemical companies, we are continually working on solving complicated problems in transportation, infrastructure, consumer products and the environment. We are passionate about providing opportunities to young people who will join us in solving the challenges put before us today and in the future.

Fish.

Founded in 1878, Fish & Richardson is a leading global law firm unlike any other law firm in the world. With over 400 attorneys and technology specialists, the firm is one of the largest practicing IP strategy and counseling, IP litigation, and business litigation. As a law firm that has helped great innovators and entrepreneurs protect their intellectual property, we have a keen interest in promoting science education, and look forward to working with the next century of great innovators.



Genzyme has developed a strategic giving program to support science education, access to healthcare, and other unmet needs in communities where Genzyme has a significant business presence. From promoting basic science to raising awareness of the biotechnology industry, Genzyme strongly supports programs that help build excitement and enthusiasm about science education. We are also committed to promoting better understanding of health issues and to increasing the accessibility of health programs.



MIT has been the host of the annual Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair since its inception in 1949. Congratulations, MSSEF, on your 65th Anniversary!



Wheaton College offers an exceptional curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences that encourages independent exploration and innovative problem solving. The college promotes the study of math and science through partnerships with Battelle, Raytheon and the Southeast Alliance Pipeline project. The college recently unveiled its new Mars Center for Science and Technology – a Gold LEED-certified building featuring 23 research labs and rooms for cross-disciplinary study. Wheaton offers an annual merit scholarship to a MSSEF winner who earns admission to the college. Since 2000, Wheaton scholars have earned three Rhodes and over 70 Fulbrights, amongst other awards.



Founded in 1865 in Worcester, Mass., WPI is one of the nation's first engineering and technology universities. Its 14 academic departments offer more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts, leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. WPI's talented faculty work with students on interdisciplinary research that seeks solutions to important and socially relevant problems in fields as diverse as the life sciences and bioengineering, energy, information security, materials processing, and robotics. Students also have the opportunity to make a difference to communities and organizations around the world through the university's innovative Global Perspective Program. There are more than 35 WPI project centers throughout North America and Central America. Africa, Australia, Asia, and Europe.

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Eleanor A. Tishler Tel: 888-437-3247 etishler@scifair.com



We are grateful to our supporters – companies, universities, foundations, individuals and professional organizations, for their help over the past 65 years in advancing inquiry-based learning and science fair programs throughout Massachusetts.

Generous contributions from our sponsors enable us to invest in our schools, communities and children. Working together, we will continue to inspire future generations of science and engineering leaders, build science literacy for all students, and open pathways to college and new careers for students in high-needs communities.

Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair, Inc. (MSSEF) is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a not-for-profit corporation and is a Federal tax-exempt organization under Federal law 501c(3). Federal Tax Exempt Number: 04-2707499



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INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Choosing a Project

Students' projects should be of an experimental nature –either investigating a research question or solving a design challenge. Although judges consider the aesthetics of a student's exhibit, the main areas for evaluation are the scientific or engineering design approach, and the thought processes used in completing the project. While the topic is important, the most critical aspect is the manner in which the student explores and manages the project. A simple project can offer a great experimental challenge to the imaginative student. The role of the teacher, mentor or parent should be one of guidance, encouragement and, as needed, constructive criticism. In some cases, supervising a safety-related component of the project will be required.

The Student's Research Plan

Prior to beginning an independent research project for a regional or state science fair, each student is required to complete a Research Plan (Forms 1A and 1B) for teacher approval. Some projects may require additional Forms if the project involves human subjects (Form C) or if it requires a supervisor (Form D). All required forms are then sent to the Regional Safety Review Committee (RSRC) for approval. <u>Contact information for the RSRCs</u> is found in the Regional Contacts section of this Manual and is also on the MSSEF website. The RSRC must approve each student's research plan before she/he may begin the project. Once approved, the RSRC will return these forms to the student who will then submit the forms along with the Registration Form if they are invited to participate in the MSSEF (statewide) Middle School Science Fair. If during project completion the research plan changes significantly, a new research plan must be resubmitted. Any project that has not received approval by the RSRC will not be eligible to compete at the State or Regional Level. Research Plan Forms 1A, 1B, Form C & Form D are found in the Research and Registration Forms section and on the <u>MSSEF</u> website (http://www.massscifair.com/sites/default/files/assets/2014%20Middle%20School%20Forms.pdf).

For questions about research approvals that cannot be answered by the RSRC, contact: Sandy Mayrand, Co-Director of the MSSEF Science & Engineering Fair - Middle School Division c/o Regional Science Resource Center UMASS Medical School 222 Maple Avenue, Rose Gordon Bldg. Shrewsbury, MA 01545 E. Sandy Mayrand, sandy.mayrand@gmail.com

Research Regulations

- 1. Students' Science Fair projects may not involve, at any stage of the project, the following:
 - * Blood products, fresh tissue, teeth or bodily fluids
 - * Nonhuman vertebrate animals and their parts, exception eggs
 - * Ingestion or inhalation of any substance by humans subjects (no smelling/wafting or eating/chewing of
 - ANYTHING)-NOTHING in or on parts of mouth-including but not limited to teeth, tongue, lips.
 - * Pathogenic agents*
 - * Recombinant DNA
 - * Carcinogenic or mutagenic chemicals
 - * Compressed gas (including, but not limited to CO2)
 - * Controlled substances*
 - * Explosive chemicals
 - * Hazardous substances or devices (including, but not limited to BB guns, paint ball guns, potato cannons,

air cannons)

- * High voltage equipment
- * Highly toxic chemicals
- * Lasers (any strength)
- * Ionizing radiation X-rays or nuclear energy
- * Radioactive materials (except non-ionizing, naturally occurring materials)

***FURTHER EXPLANATIONS**

* Controlled Substances

Controlled substances, including DEA-classed substances, prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco are not allowed.

Pathogenic Agents

- * Pathogenic agents are disease causing, or potential disease-causing organisms such as bacteria, viruses, viroids, prions, rickettsia, fungi, mold and others.
- * Organisms collected, isolated and/or cultured from any environment (e.g., air, soil) are considered potentially pathogenic and experiments using these procedures will not be allowed.
- * Raw or partially processed human/animal waste is considered to contain potentially pathogenic agents.

Please refer any safety questions to:

MSSEF Middle School Safety Review Committee Karin Lebeau, 508 856-1529, or karin.lebeau@umassmed.edu Sandy Mayrand, <u>sandy.mayrand@gmail.com</u>

2. All human research projects must have an Informed Consent Form (Form C) attached.

* All human research projects-- including surveys, professional tests questionnaires, and studies in which the human subject used is also the researcher -- require Regional Science Review Committee (RSRC) approval. Copies of standardized and/or student prepared tests, surveys, etc. to be used must also be attached to the Research Plan for approval. Questions 1, 2, and 3 on the Informed Consent Form must be filled out by the student researcher before submission to the RSRC for approval.

* After safety approval, Informed Consent Form (C) must be signed by all subjects involved in human research projects prior to the experimentation. Copies of all signed Informed Consent Forms must be

submitted with the Registration Form to enter the MSSEF statewide Science Fair. If a participant/human subject is under 18 years old, the parent/guardian signature is required.

3. Experiments with non-pathogenic microorganisms*

All projects with non-pathogenic microorganism must have a Designated Supervisor Form (Form D) completed and submitted for RSRC approval.

Experiments with any non-pathogenic organisms

All projects with any non-pathogenic organisms may only be conducted in a laboratory setting (not in the home) with the following capabilities:

- * The laboratory work is to be supervised by an individual with general training in microbiology.
- * Standard practices for sterile technique must be observed.
- * Work is to be done on an open bench or fume hood.

* Purchased microorganisms must be identified and certified as non-pathogenic from the supply house with full name of microorganism, source of purchase and catalog number.

* Lab coats must be worn.

* Culture plates/tubes of bacteria must be sealed and not opened in the laboratory after culturing and growth.

- * Sub-culturing is not allowed.
- * Decontamination must be achieved by either chemical disinfectants or steam autoclaving.

*Two exceptions: Baker's and Brewer's yeast do not need Form D.

4. Special Safety Concerns

Other situations such as use of power tools, chemicals, etc. will require adult supervision of the middle school student's project and need to be documented on Form D, Designated Supervisor.



PROJECT DISPLAY GUIDELINES

Students must adhere to all display guidelines provided in this Manual. If the Middle School State Safety Review Committee considers the presence or operation of any equipment or material to be dangerous or unsafe, it shall have the right to prohibit the presence or operation of such equipment or material. Exhibitors may demonstrate the safe use of materials through photographs, videotapes, charts, diagrams and other simulations.

All Science Fair participants must adhere to the safety aspects of their projects as follows:

- Projects must fit into a 40" x 26" table space.** Wall space for posters is not available. Students must
 design their exhibits so that all posters, charts and displays are free standing.
 - **Due to the popularity of projects needing electricity, these projects will get less than 40" depending on amount of projects**
- No laser pointers allowed.
- Glass is prohibited from display area but may be either encased in a break-resistant container or replaced by a break-resistant container. The exception is glass light bulbs. Mercury thermometers are prohibited.
- No liquids may be displayed.
- Knives and other sharp objects may not be displayed.
- Microorganisms may not be displayed.
- Drugs, over-the-counter medications, antibiotics, and vitamins may not be displayed.
- All power driven parts must be suitably guarded to prevent unauthorized or accidental access.
- Access to electrical outlets is limited, so please bring a heavy-duty/three-pronged extension cord. Please check the appropriate space on the registration card if electricity is needed.
- All exhibits that require an external source of electricity for operation must be designed for a standard 110-125 volt AC supply.
- All wiring, switches, power cords and metal parts carrying current in an AC circuit must be properly selected for load requirements and soldered or fixed under approved connectors with insulated connecting wires. No exposed wires, switches, joints, or un-insulated fasteners will be permitted.
- The power supply cord for the electrical apparatus must terminate in a three-prong grounded outlet. All power supplies and electrical equipment must be grounded.
- Bare wire and exposed knife-type switches are permitted on 12-volt DC circuits or less. Approved standard enclosed switches are required for all other electrical installations.
- Wet-cell batteries with open tops are not permitted. Closed-cell or dry-cell batteries are permissible.
- The operation of high-pressure vessels and pressurized systems is not permitted.
- There must be no open flame, torch or burner in the display area.
- All microwave and radio frequency sources must be designed and operated in compliance with state and federal regulations as well as applicable standards of the American National Standards Institute.
- Robotics projects should have interlocks or other controls.



TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION IN JUDGING

The judging process will focus on what the student has learned about his or her chosen project and the process used in completing the project. In addition, the project will be judged on the basis of the student's ability to discuss intelligently the overall scope and significant results of his or her work. Judging criteria for team and individual projects are identical.

1. Scientific or Engineering Approach - Possible 25 points

- A. Did the student start with a clearly stated hypothesis or statement of an engineering goal?
- B. Was the student orderly and logical with the setup and follow through of the project?
- C. Were the student's conclusions consistent with the data he or she collected?

2. Knowledge of Project Area - Possible 20 points

- A. How effectively did the student conduct preliminary research?
- B. What was the extent of the student's knowledge of material related to project?
- C. Was the student aware of both the scope and limitations of the project?

3. Thoroughness - Possible 20 points

- A. Did the student do sufficient research in the literature before starting the project?
- B. Was thorough use made of data and observations?
- C. Was the original plan successfully followed through to completion?

4. Written Records and Reports - Possible 15 points

- A. Did the student keep an original handwritten, bound logbook with all plans, procedures, observations, and conclusions for failures as well as successes?
- B. Did the student put together an accurate written report, complete with a bibliography?

5. Ingenuity and Creativity - Possible 15 points

- A. Was the explanation of the project clear and precise?
- B. How well did the student use his or her materials in the solution of problems?
- C. Did the student present any new unique ideas?

6. Visual presentation - Possible 5 points

- A. Was the project displayed in a logical and organized manner?
- B. Did the display and posters effectively convey the message in an understandable manner?



TIMELINES Regional & State Middle School Science and Engineering Fairs

Due Dates -- 2015 Forms

Due prior to start of experimentation

The following Forms must be sent to either the student's Middle School Regional Safety Review Committee (see contact information in this Manual and on the MSSEF website – <u>the correct region</u> will be determined by the location of the student's school) or to the MSSEF Middle School State Safety Review Committee:

- Research Plan Forms 1A and 1B
- If necessary, human Informed Consent Form (Form C) that will be given to subjects before experimentation, and
- Designated Supervisor Form (Form D)
- Student must retain a copy of any/all forms.

Due prior to MSSEF Middle School Science & Engineering Fair

Deadline: May 8, 2015 or before

- Registration Form (Approved Research Plan, Forms1A and B included), and
- Approved Forms C and D, if necessary

Student must retain a copy of these forms.

Mail to:

Regional Science Resource Center UMASS Medical School 222 Maple Avenue Shrewsbury, MA 01545

> For more information about entering the Massachusetts Middle School Science and Engineering Fair: Contact: Karin Lebeau at 508 856-1529, or <u>karin.lebeau@umassmed.edu</u>



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MSSEF, Inc. is incorporated in Massachusetts as a not-for-profit corporation and is a Federal tax-exempt organization. Tax ID # 042707499



MSSEF Middle School Division Regional Fair District Information

Middle school teachers should contact their respective regional chairs for further information about the regional middle school Science Fairs.

Region I: Western Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts Middle School Science & Engineering Fair Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) May 2, 2015

Director: Dr. Chris Himes

MCLA 375 Church Street North Adams, MA 01247 Tel: (413) 662-5222 Email: c.himes@mcla.edu Website: www.mcla.edu/About_MCLA/Community/stempi peline/regionimiddleschoolscifair

Region II: Central Massachusetts

Worcester Regional Middle School Science & Engineering Fair Worcester Polytechnic Institute Monday, May 4, 2015

Director: Lisa Greenwald

379 Cross Street Boylston, MA 01505 Tel: (508) 869-0194 Email: greenwal@westborough.k12.ma.us Website: www.wrsef.org

Region III: Southwest Massachusetts

Rensselaer @ BCC Region III Science Fair Bristol Community College, Fall River Combined Senior High/Middle School Fair 2015 Date TBD

Director: Dr. James Pelletier

Bristol Community College 777 Elsbree Street Fall River, MA 02720 Tel: (508) 678-2811, x2200 Fax: (508) 675-2366 Email: Colleen Vickery: <u>info@massregion3.org</u> Website: massregion3.org

Region IV: Northeastern Massachusetts

Northeast Regional Middle School Science & Engineering Fair University Massachusetts Lowell - Ball Hall 2015 Date - TBD

Director: Dr. Carol Barry

UMass Lowell – Dept. of Plastic Engineering Ball Hall 110, 185 Riverside Street, Lowell MA 01854 Tel: (978) 934-3436 Email: <u>Carol.Barry@uml.edu</u>

Region V: Southeastern Massachusetts

Southeastern Massachusetts Middle School Science & Engineering Fair Regis College <u>April 25, 2015</u>

Director: Erin McQuaid

Regis College 235 Wellesley Street Weston, MA 02493 Tel: (781) 768-7336 Fax: (781) 768-7159 Email: <u>Erin.McQuaid@regiscollege.edu</u> Website:

Region VI: Boston

Boston Public Schools Regional Science Fair Northeastern University, Boston Combined Senior High/Middle School Fair 2015 Date TBD

Director: Pam Pelletier

Boston Public Schools – Science Department 1216 Dorchester Avenue Dorchester, MA 02125 Tel: (617) 635-8750 Email: ppelletier@bostonpublicschools.org

Note: Region VI includes all <u>public</u> schools within the City of Boston. Private and parochial schools within the City of Boston are included in Region V

MSSEF Regional Districts' Cities and Towns

Region I: Western Massachusetts

Adams Agawam Holyoke Alford Amherst Ashfield Becket Belchertown Bernardston Blandford Buckland Charlemont Cheshire Chester Chesterfield Chicopee Clarksburg Colrain Conway Cummington Dalton Deerfield Easthampton East Longmeadow Egremont Ervina Florida Gill Goshen Granby Granvfile Great Barrington Greenfield Hadley Hampden Hancock Hatfield Hawley Heath

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Regional High Schools Amherst Frontier Gateway Hampshire Hoosac Valley Mount Everett Pathfinder Reg. Voc. Taconic Wahconah Ralph C. Mahar Minnechaug Mohawk Trail Monument Mountain Mount Greylock **Pioneer Valley Turners Falls**

Region II: Central Massachusetts

Ashburnham Ashland Athol Auburn Barre Berlin Blackstone Bolton Boylston Brimfield Brookfield Charlton Clinton Douglas Dudley East Brookfield Fitchburg Framingham Gardner Grafton Hardwick Harvard Holden Holland Holliston Hopedale Hopkinton Hubbardston Hudson

Lancaster Leicester Leominster Lunenberg Marlborough Maynard Mendon Milford Millbury Millville New Braintree Northborough Northbridge North Brookfield Oakham Oxford Paxton Phillipston Princeton Royalston Rutland Shrewsbury Southborough Southbridge Spencer Sterling Stow Sturbridge Sudbury Sutton

Templeton Upton Uxbridge Wales Warren Webster Westborough West Boylston West Brookfield Westminster Whitinsville Winchendon Worcester

Regional High Schools

Algonquin Assabet Valley Bay Path Blackstone-Millville Lincoln-Sudbury Montachusett Narragansett Nashoba Nipmuc Oakmont Quabbin Quaboag Shepherd Hill South Middlesex Tahanto Tantasqua Wachusett

Region III: Southwestern Massachusetts

Mansfield	Swansea
New Bedford	Taunton
Norfolk	Westport
North Attleboro	Wrentham
Norton	
Plainville	Regional High Schools
Raynham	Apponequet
Rehoboth	Bristol-Plymouth
Seekonk	Dighton-Rehoboth
Somerset	Diman Regional
	King Philip
	Mansfield New Bedford Norfolk North Attleboro Norton Plainville Raynham Rehoboth Seekonk Somerset

Region IV: Northeastern Massachusetts

Acton Amesbury Andover Arlington Ashby Ayer Bedford Belmont Beverly Billerica Boxborough Boxford Burlington Cambridge Carlisle Chelmsford Chelsea Concord Danvers Dracut Dunstable Essex Everett Georgetown Gloucester Groton Groveland Hamilton Haverhill Ipswich

Lawrence Lexington Lincoln Littleton Lowell Lynn Lynnfield Malden Manchester Marblehead Medford Melrose Merrimac Methuen Middleton Nahant Newbury Newburyport North Andover North Reading Peabody Pepperell Reading Revere Rockport Rowley Salem Salisbury Saugus Shirley Somerville Stoneham Swampscott

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Regional High Schools

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Region V: Southeastern Massachusetts

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Lakeville Marion Marshfield Martha's Vineyard Mashpee Mattapoisett Medfield Medway Middleborough Millis Milton Nantucket Natick Needham Newton Norwell Norwood Orleans Pembroke Plymouth Plympton Provincetown Quincy Randolph Raynham Rochester Rockland Sandwich Scituate Sharon Sherborn Stoughton

Truro Walpole Wareham Wayland Wellesley Wellfleet West Bridgewater Weston Westwood Weymouth Whitman Yarmouth

Regional High Schools

Apponequet Blue Hills Bridgewater-Raynham Cape Cod Regional Dennis-Yarmouth Dover-Sherborn Martha's Vineyard Nauset Old Colony Regional Old Rochester Silver Lake Southeastern Regional Upper Cape Cod Regional Whitman-Hanson

All Boston parochial and private schools.

Region VI Boston

Boston Public Schools Regional Science Fair

Includes all public schools within the City of Boston. Private and parochial schools within the City of Boston are included in Region V.

Special Note: These six regions are the same for both the Middle School and High School Divisions.