

SDIRC Science and STEM Project Guidelines 2018-2019

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A. Grades K-2:

The expectations for Grades K-2 are students work collectively with the help of a directing teacher to produce a class project for display.

B. Grades 3 - 5:

The expectations for Grades 3 – 5, are students will work as a small group/partners, must contribute equally to complete a scientific investigation, and construct a display. Teachers and parents can serve as advisors in paper research and writing, as well as in correction of spelling and grammatical errors.

- Students have the option to complete an individual project in Grades K-5
- **Minimum of two group projects** will move on to the Regional Fair for each grade level
- Number of projects moving from the school fairs to the Regional Fair :
 - 3rd Grade - 3 projects
 - 4th Grade - 5 projects
 - 5th Grade - 5 projects
- Two different judging sheets will be used – Scientific Process Projects and Design Process Projects (STEM type). Please be sure to review these prior to beginning your projects.

It is suggested to align your projects with the grade level curriculum maps and standards taught throughout the allotted time frames. This should not take any additional time away from your regular instruction. Be creative – embed the informational text into your ELA instructional routines and complete the investigations during your Science instructional routines.

- Students entering a small group project must select a minimum of ONE but no more than TWO members, to be present for judges' interviews during the time specified by the Fair Directors, but all may attend the fair (This is for both the school and district fairs).
- Students entering individual projects in grades 3-5 must be present for judges' interviews during the time specified by the Fair Directors. If a student is not present the project will not be judged.
- Each school is expected to have a school based fair. All students are encouraged to participate in the school STEM/Science Fair.
- ESE Teachers and Resource Rooms can do class/group STEM projects.

Ideas and Suggestions:

- Students research during center rotation in the ELA block and perform the design process or investigation during your school wide STEM Days. Students can complete the boards in centers throughout the following weeks.
- 21st Century Afterschool Clubs and/or Morning STEM Clubs would be a good time to allow students to research for their projects, work on the group board/display
- Involve your special areas – Media: students can complete research, type board information, type research paper; ART: students can design and construct their boards