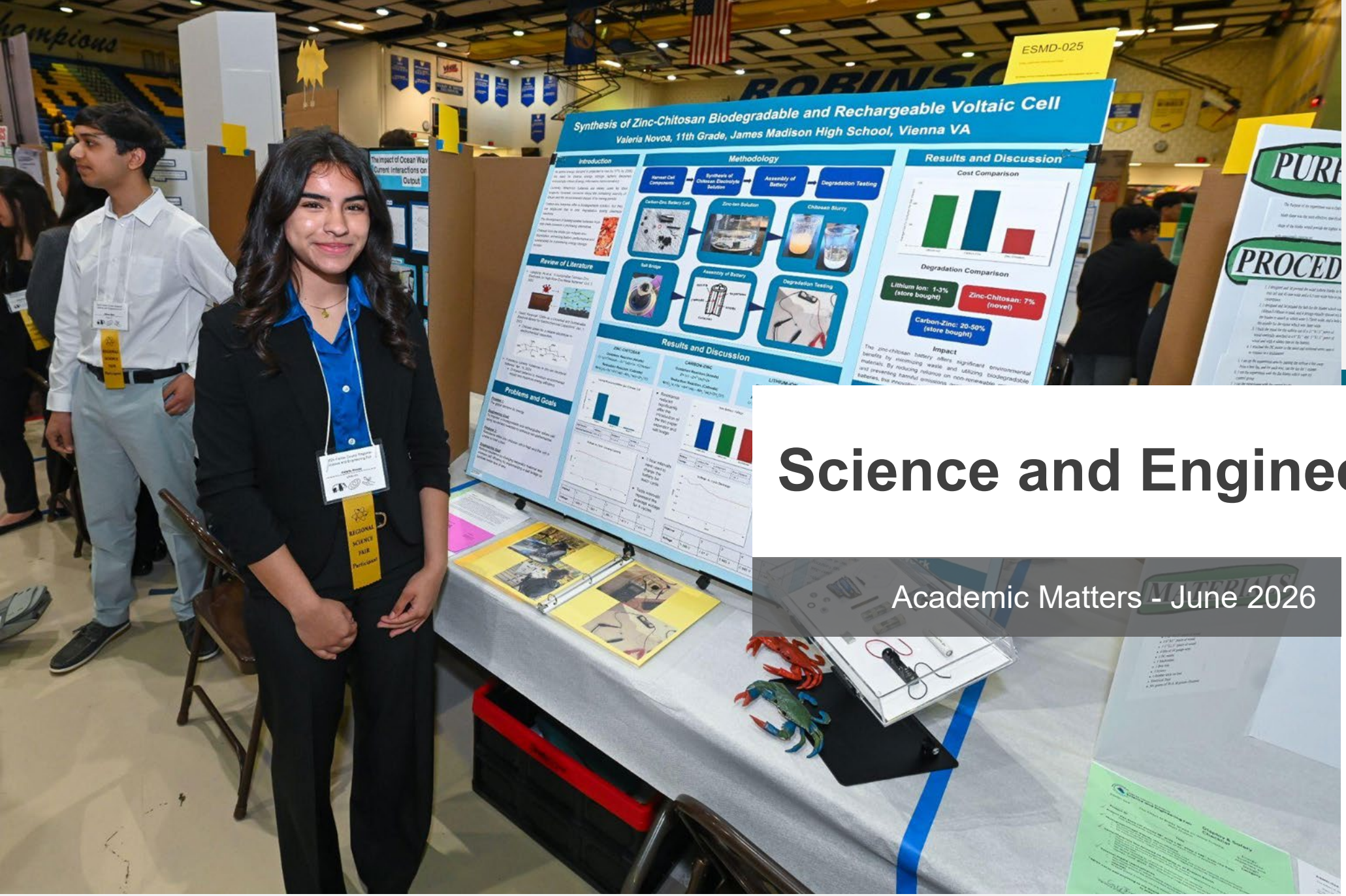


Science and Engineering Fair

Academic Matters - June 2026

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Fair Overview

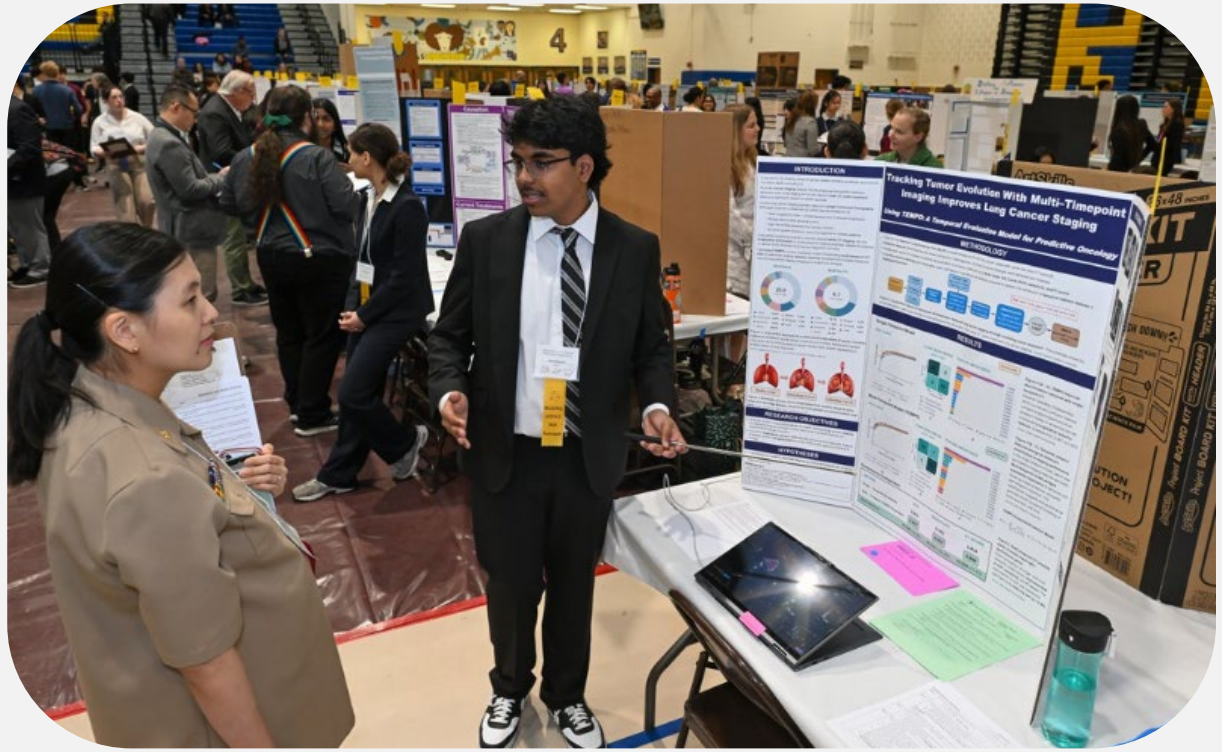
The Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair (FCRSEF) is a competition for students attending high school in Fairfax County. Students earn entry through local school science fairs.

Community & Support

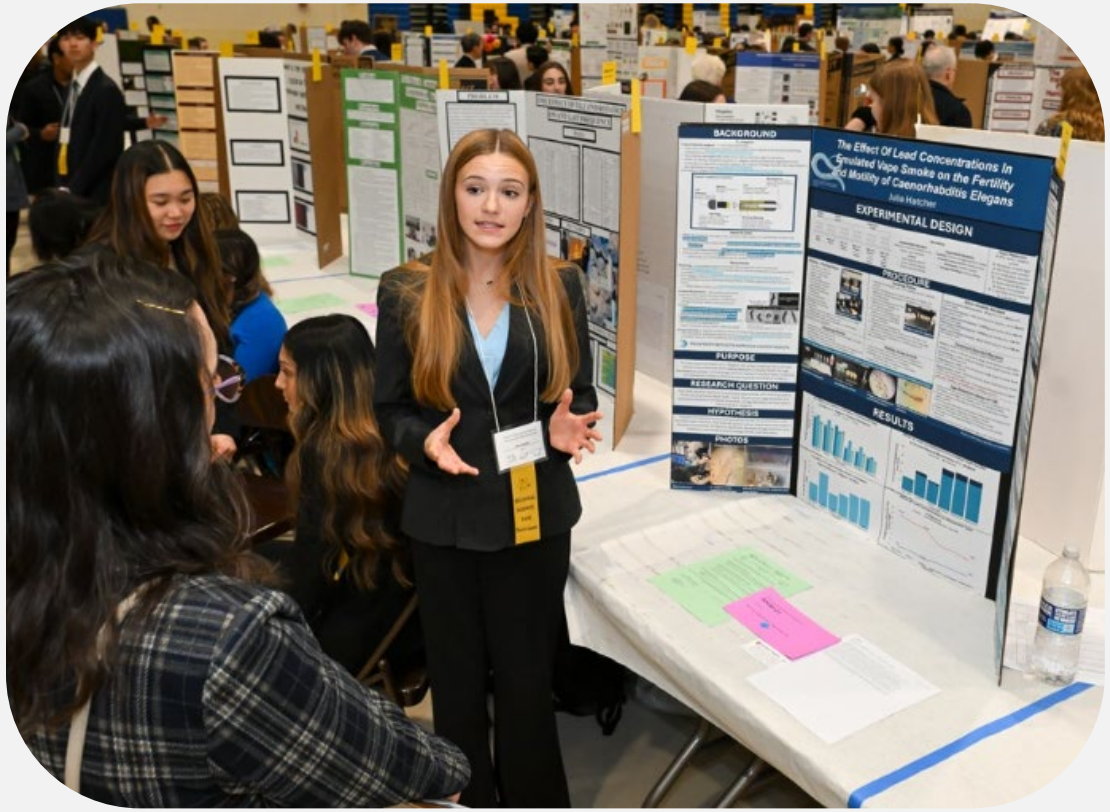
Each year, approximately 40-60 STEM-related organizations provide community support by sponsoring Special Awards for students. They make up part of the 300+ judges at the fair.

Key Sponsors

- I-66 Express Mobility Partners
- ExploreLearning
- Regeneron (ISEF)
- Guernsey
- Educate Fairfax



Curriculum Connections





Empowering Student Researchers

Scientific & Engineering Practices (SEPs)

The FCRSEF acts as the ultimate hands-on application of the Scientific and Engineering Practices (SEPs) embedded within Standard 1 of all Virginia high school sciences.

Active Inquiry & Analysis

Students become active learners and researchers by formulating original questions, designing experiments and models, and analyzing data.

Portrait of a Graduate

This promotes the core competencies of the VDOE Profile of a Virginia Graduate as well as the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate, including community engagement and civic responsibility, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

2026 Regional Science and Engineering Fair Highlights

400+
High School Projects

600+
Student Participants

300
Professional Judges

10
Grand Prize Projects qualified for ISEF

Category Awards

- Animal Sciences
- Behavioral Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biomedical and Health Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Computer Science and Math
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Energy: Sustainable Materials and Design
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Engineering
- Materials Science
- Microbiology
- Physics and Astronomy
- Plant Sciences

VSSEF & ISEF Highlights

Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair (VSSEF)

- The Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair was held in April.
- 57 FCPS students participated in the state level fair (250 total participants).
- 22 FCPS student projects received awards at the state fair.
- 2 FCPS students received a Grand Prize Award, qualifying to participate at ISEF.

International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

- The International Science & Engineering Fair was held in May.
- 15 FCPS students participated (1700+ total participants). Of the 11 FCPS projects that were represented out of the 1383 projects at ISEF, 7 of them placed 4th or higher in various categories, earning cash awards.
- 1 FCPS project received one of the 10 Top Awards at ISEF.

