



Dear Principals and School Science Program Coordinators:

The 2024 Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair will be held the weeks of March 4-16. The Urban School Challenge, generously sponsored by the Jackson Laboratory and the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, provides an opportunity for students who reside and attend schools in alliance school districts to compete in a special category in addition to the regular fair. This category was specifically developed to offer underrepresented students an expanded opportunity to develop their interests and talents in STEM. In addition, we offer mini-grants for teachers to serve these students who may not have the means to support their own research experiences. We encourage teachers, students, and schools to participate in this valuable program.

The Urban School Challenge offers unique benefits to students from state-identified Alliance Schools Districts. Middle school (Grades 7-8) and High School (Grades 9-12) students from schools that are part of the Connecticut Alliance Program are eligible to compete in this additional category. The 2023 USC will offer the following prizes:

- The top High School project (individual or team) wins the opportunity to compete in the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair.
- The top 8th-grade project wins the opportunity to compete at GENIUS Olympiad.
- The top 7th-grade project wins a week at Project Oceanology's Ocean Camp.
- All students are eligible for special category awards, as well as Regular and Special Awards.

Our criteria for participation in the Urban School Challenge have changed for the 2024 Fair: **To participate in the USC students must i.) reside in an alliance district town AND ii.) (a) attend a school that is in the alliance district or (b) attend an appropriate RESC (e.g., CREC, ACES, Learn) Magnet School. If the students are on a team project, at least one of the team members must meet the above criteria.** Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Fair Director: director@ctsciencefair.org. Please note that students who do not meet the USC criteria are still eligible for participation in regular Fair categories.

The following public school districts are eligible to participate in the Urban School Challenge:

Ansonia	Enfield	New Britain	Thompson
Bloomfield	Groton	New Haven	Torrington
Bridgeport	Hamden	New London	Vernon
Bristol	Hartford	Norwalk	Waterbury
Danbury	Killingly	Norwich	West Haven
Derby	Manchester	Plainfield	Winchester
East Hartford	Meriden	Putnam	Windham
East Haven	Middletown	Stamford	Windsor
East Windsor	Naugatuck	Stratford	Windsor Locks

Please share this information with your staff and let us know if we can provide you with further information.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Meyer
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