

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2026
4
5 By: Senator M. McKee
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SR 29

8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO CONGRATULATE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS,
10 SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS STUDENTS ON SCIENCE FAIR
11 COMPETITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO OBSERVE ARKANSAS
12 SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS DAY AT
13 THE STATE CAPITOL.
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16 **Subtitle**

17 TO CONGRATULATE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR
18 MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
19 STUDENTS ON SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITION
20 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO OBSERVE ARKANSAS
21 SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND
22 THE ARTS DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL.
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24 WHEREAS, the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences was
25 established in 1991 by Act 259 and became known as the Arkansas School for
26 Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts in 2003 by Act 1305; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
29 opened its doors to the first students in 1993; and
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31 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences,
32 and the Arts is to educate gifted and talented math, science, and fine and
33 performing arts students in the state and to develop curricula and materials
34 to improve instruction in mathematics, sciences, and the fine and performing
35 arts for all students in the state; and
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1 WHEREAS, ten (10) students at the Arkansas School for Mathematics,
2 Sciences, and the Arts students have competed and won at regional or state
3 level science fair competitions in Arkansas and have earned the honor to
4 compete at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair on May 9-
5 15, 2026, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona; and
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7 WHEREAS, the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair was held at
8 the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, in Hot Springs,
9 Arkansas, on February 27, 2026; and
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11 WHEREAS, the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair
12 was held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, on April
13 3, 2026; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair is
16 the largest international science competition for high school students, with
17 nearly two thousand (2,000) finalists from around the globe, and is where top
18 young researchers present original projects to be judged by experts and
19 compete for scholarships, prizes, and recognition by demonstrating
20 innovation, scientific rigor, and real-world impact; and
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22 WHEREAS, Miranda Lee is competing with a project in materials science
23 that sought to find a biodegradable plastic for dental aligners, with which
24 she earned third place overall at the 27th Annual West Central Regional
25 Science Fair and won the Best in State award at the 72nd Annual Arkansas
26 State Science and Engineering Fair; and
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28 WHEREAS, Nathan Grady, Kaitleen Toh, and Emily Lin are competing with a
29 project that tested novel chemicals found in medicinal herbs as potential
30 drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease using both computational models and
31 laboratory experiments, with which they earned first place in their category
32 and second place overall at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science
33 Fair, earned Third Best in State and won the Society for In Vitro Biology
34 Prize at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair, and for
35 which they are preparing a manuscript for publication; and
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1 WHEREAS, Tanvi Marupally is competing with a project that studied the
2 role of Helicase-like Transcription Factor as a key player in resolving DNA
3 replication stress, which can be instrumental in cancer treatments, with
4 which she earned first place in her category and first place overall at the
5 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair; and
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7 WHEREAS, Aarush Goyal is competing with a project that tested various
8 older and newer PFAS forever chemicals and found that they both disrupt liver
9 cell function, raising concerns for long-term health, with which he earned
10 first place in his category at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science
11 Fair, earned first place in his category, and was in the top six (6)
12 International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists at the 72nd Annual
13 Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair, and earned an award from the
14 Arkansas Environmental Education Association for his project; and
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16 WHEREAS, Aarush Goyal has also recently published a first author review
17 manuscript in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, which is
18 nearly unprecedented for a high school student; and
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20 WHEREAS, Isaac Cotton is competing with a project that studied how
21 quickly Staphylococcus bacteria become resistant to the antibiotic mupirocin
22 and how long that resistance is maintained in the absence of further
23 exposure, with which he earned first in his category at the 27th Annual West
24 Central Regional Science Fair and 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and
25 Engineering Fair and placed first in his category and was in the top six (6)
26 International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists at the 72nd Annual
27 Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair; and
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29 WHEREAS, Stevie Watkins and Beau Goldthorpe are competing with a
30 project that developed a way to intervene in algal blooms by introducing
31 rotifers to control the growth of blooms that harm ecosystems, with which
32 they placed in the top six (6) International Science and Engineering Fair
33 Finalists in the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair and
34 are advancing to national level competition in the Stockholm Junior Water
35 Prize after winning this prize at the state level during the 72nd Annual
36 Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair; and

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WHEREAS, Nathan Harbut is competing with a project that used clustering coefficients to find that better arithmetic performance is associated with more integrated brain activity, with which he earned first place in his category and placed in the top six (6) International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair and won a Naval Science Award; and

WHEREAS, recognizing April 22, 2026, as Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts Day at the State Capitol honors the accomplishments and achievements of the students of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate:

(1) Recognize and celebrate Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts Day at the State Capitol on April 22, 2026; and

(2) Congratulate and commend the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts students who will be attending the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair on May 9-15, 2026, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, an appropriate copy of this resolution be provided to the leadership of Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts by the Secretary of the Senate.