

By: Senator M. McKee

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO CONGRATULATE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS,
SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS STUDENTS ON SCIENCE FAIR
COMPETITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO OBSERVE ARKANSAS
SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS DAY AT
THE STATE CAPITOL.

Subtitle

TO CONGRATULATE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
STUDENTS ON SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITION
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO OBSERVE ARKANSAS
SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES, AND
THE ARTS DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences was established in 1991 by Act 259 and became known as the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts in 2003 by Act 1305; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts opened its doors to the first students in 1993; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts is to educate gifted and talented math, science, and fine and performing arts students in the state and to develop curricula and materials to improve instruction in mathematics, sciences, and the fine and performing arts for all students in the state; and



WHEREAS, ten (10) students at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts students have competed and won at regional or state level science fair competitions in Arkansas and have earned the honor to compete at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair on May 9-15, 2026, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair was held at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on February 27, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair was held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, on April 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair is the largest international science competition for high school students, with nearly two thousand (2,000) finalists from around the globe, and is where top young researchers present original projects to be judged by experts and compete for scholarships, prizes, and recognition by demonstrating innovation, scientific rigor, and real-world impact; and

WHEREAS, Miranda Lee is competing with a project in materials science that sought to find a biodegradable plastic for dental aligners, with which she earned third place overall at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair and won the Best in State award at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Grady, Kaitleen Toh, and Emily Lin are competing with a project that tested novel chemicals found in medicinal herbs as potential drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease using both computational models and laboratory experiments, with which they earned first place in their category and second place overall at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair, earned Third Best in State and won the Society for In Vitro Biology Prize at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair, and for which they are preparing a manuscript for publication; and

WHEREAS, Tanvi Marupally is competing with a project that studied the role of Helicase-like Transcription Factor as a key player in resolving DNA replication stress, which can be instrumental in cancer treatments, with which she earned first place in her category and first place overall at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair; and

WHEREAS, Aarush Goyal is competing with a project that tested various older and newer PFAS forever chemicals and found that they both disrupt liver cell function, raising concerns for long-term health, with which he earned first place in his category at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair, earned first place in his category, and was in the top six (6) International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair, and earned an award from the Arkansas Environmental Education Association for his project; and

WHEREAS, Aarush Goyal has also recently published a first author review manuscript in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, which is nearly unprecedented for a high school student; and

WHEREAS, Isaac Cotton is competing with a project that studied how quickly Staphylococcus bacteria become resistant to the antibiotic mupirocin and how long that resistance is maintained in the absence of further exposure, with which he earned first in his category at the 27th Annual West Central Regional Science Fair and 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair and placed first in his category and was in the top six (6) International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists at the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair; and

WHEREAS, Stevie Watkins and Beau Goldthorpe are competing with a project that developed a way to intervene in algal blooms by introducing rotifers to control the growth of blooms that harm ecosystems, with which they placed in the top six (6) International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists in the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair and are advancing to national level competition in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize after winning this prize at the state level during the 72nd Annual Arkansas State Science and Engineering Fair; and

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.