



QUALIFYING FOR STATES

Divisions B and C of Science Olympiad are structured as a series of qualifying tournaments where schools become eligible to compete at the next level of tournament based on their overall ranking – first regional, then state, and finally national. At the regional level, schools are allowed to field multiple teams, but schools can only earn one spot for one team at the state tournament. A school qualifies for the state tournament based on the overall competition ranking of its highest-placing team at its own regional. Scores are not compared across regionals or divisions. Schools qualify as a whole, not students, except for the Gold Bids explained on the next page.

The total number of available slots at the state tournament can vary slightly from year to year depending on facility capacity and other factors. Those slots are proportionally allocated to each regional according to the number of schools, not teams, at that regional for each division. For example, if the state tournament will have 25 Division B teams and 25 Division C teams, and Regional A has 40% of all Division B schools and 20% of all Division C schools in the state, then ten Division B schools and five Division C schools will qualify for the state tournament from Regional A. We announce the number of available state bids from each regional after we finalize our state tournament capacity and after regional signups are complete.

On the right are the final rankings of the top twenty Division C teams at the 2023 UMW regional tournament. The full results can be found [here](#). The superscript diamond next to the team's overall ranking indicates that the team earned its school a bid to the state tournament. There were eight available Division C state bids to be earned at this regional tournament.

It may initially look odd that the sixth and ninth place teams do not have a diamond, but those schools already earned their state bid from higher ranking teams in first and fourth place, and schools cannot earn more than one state bid. The schools from this example that did not qualify were Alexandria City HS, Riverside HS, West Springfield HS, and some lower ranking schools not shown here.

Schools may select any students they wish for their state team, including students from their lower ranking regional teams and even students who did not compete at the regional tournament at all. We strongly urge coaches to communicate how they will determine the state team members to students and parents early in the season. Keep in mind that a device can only be presented for judging at a tournament if it was built exclusively by the fifteen members of the team, so if a device was built by a student you did not place on your state team, that device cannot be taken to the state tournament.

Team	Overall
Fairfax H.S. Blue Fairfax, VA	1 [◇]
Lake Braddock Secondary Gold Burke, VA	2 [◇]
BASIS Independent McLean McLean, VA	3 [◇]
Robinson Secondary Gold Fairfax, VA	4 [◇]
Freedom H.S. Black Chantilly, VA	5 [◇]
Fairfax H.S. Gray Fairfax, VA	6
Centreville H.S. Ursa Centreville, VA	7 [◇]
Potomac Falls H.S. Black Potomac Falls, VA	8 [◇]
Robinson Secondary Blue Fairfax, VA	9
Chantilly H.S. Purple Chantilly, VA	10 [◇]
Chantilly H.S. Black Chantilly, VA	11
Chantilly H.S. White Chantilly, VA	12
Centreville H.S. Orion Centreville, VA	13
Lake Braddock Secondary White Burke, ...	14
Alexandria City H.S. Blue Alexandria, VA	15
Freedom H.S. Gold Chantilly, VA	16
Riverside H.S. B Leesburg, VA	17
Fairfax H.S. White Fairfax, VA	18
West Springfield H.S. Electrons West Spr...	19
Lake Braddock Secondary Purple Burke,...	20



GOLD BIDS

Starting in the 2023-2024 season, VASO is implementing what we call Gold Bids in an effort to promote equity and allow students from schools with less established teams a chance to experience the state tournament. This is the only mechanism for students to qualify in individual events instead of a whole fifteen student team. Depending on the event, there may be one, two, or three students competing together, but for simplicity we will refer to them as “pairs” of students since that is the most common case.

If a school does not qualify for the state tournament but has a pair take first place in an event, then that pair will be invited to participate only in that specific event at the state tournament. No other students may be substituted in their place. Schools may earn more than one Gold Bid if they take first place in more than one event. If a school qualifies as a whole for the state tournament but does not include its regional gold medalists on its state team, those students are not eligible for Gold Bids.

Gold Bid pairs compete on an exhibition basis only, meaning they can earn medals, but do not displace the rankings of other teams. On the right are the top ten teams in the Experimental Design event at the 2023 Michigan Division C state tournament. The full results can be found [here](#). Haslett HS earned Michigan’s equivalent of a Gold Bid for this event, so their team is marked “Ex” for exhibition in the peach box. All six medals were awarded normally to the top six schools that qualified as a whole for the state tournament, and then an additional second place medal was awarded to the exhibition team, since their score would have earned them second place. The exhibition team does not affect the other schools’ rankings, and thus has no impact on overall rankings or which schools qualify for the national tournament.

Team	Experimental Design
Athens H.S. Troy, MI	1
Haslett H.S. MI Ex	2
East Lansing H.S. East Lansing, MI	2
Eisenhower H.S. MI	3
Northville H.S. Northville, MI	4
Grand Haven H.S. Grand Haven, MI	5
International Academy Central MI	6
Canton H.S. MI	7
Holt H.S. Holt, MI	8
Mattawan H.S. MI	9
Grace Christian Academy MI	10

The Virginia state tournament, unlike Virginia regional tournaments, typically includes some trial events, which are new events being tested before they become full events. Medals are given in trial events, but the rankings are not included in schools’ overall scores. Gold Bid teams are allowed to compete in any or all of the trial events offered in their division, and they are scored as normal, non-exhibition teams in those events. If a school earned Gold Bids for more than one event, they may still only enter one pair in each trial event. It is up to the coach’s discretion to determine which of those students will participate in each trial event.

Gold Bids are only for the Virginia state tournament. The national tournament only allows schools to qualify as a whole, not individual students.