



ABOUT OUR STUDY



Science fairs are a rite of passage for many school-age children. Yet in spite of their wide implementation and long history, there are few studies that have examined the relationship between student participation in these fairs and their learning and interest in science. Additionally, there have been no studies to understand the real cost of these programs relative to the student outcomes.

Our four-year study will be the first step to understanding the implementation and effectiveness of middle school (grades 6–8) science fairs in the United States. We are specifically studying:

STUDENT INTEREST

...if and how science fairs increase students' interest in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM), and/or STEM careers.

MASTERY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PRACTICES

...if and how participation in select models of middle school science fairs enhance students' mastery of the science and engineering practices.

COSTS & RESOURCES

...what costs and resources are required to implement an effective middle school science fair?

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