



MISSISSIPPI READING FAIR GUIDELINES

Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Education
Office of Curriculum and Instruction

These guidelines have been revised to establish a uniform procedure and provide forms for school, district, and regional level reading fairs.

Note: All forms must be used when submitting first place winners to the next level of competition.

Storyboards

Size

- Storyboards should be constructed on a standard tri-fold project board that unfolds to be 36" H x 48" W. This board is the same type that is traditionally used for science fairs.

Note: Boards should be full-sized and not exceed the approved height, width, and depth guidelines. Boards that do not meet the size requirements will be disqualified, **even if they proceed to the state-level competition.**

Display

- Storyboards should be colorful and interesting. Models, shadowboxes, and illustrations that *fit in the middle of the display* are allowed. The total project should not exceed the width or depth of the standing display board (approximately 36" W x 14" D of table space).
- Identifying information (name of the student(s), category and division, student's grade level, homeroom teacher's name, school and district name) should be labeled on the back of the storyboard. If any identifying information is placed on the front, the project will be disqualified.
- Items on the boards may be handwritten or typed. Kindergarten students and other young students may require assistance in writing, typing, spelling, cutting, etc. This is permissible and part of the learning process; however, if a student of any age has extensive assistance, please enter the project in the family category for grades K-3 or 4-8.
- Students and teachers are encouraged to accompany their projects throughout all levels of competitions; however, the student's presence is not required. All projects will be fairly judged regardless of the student's attendance.

Note: Only students may represent the projects during the judging, even for the group and family projects. If a student needs accommodations, please submit Appendix J Form: Students Needing Accommodations Form.

Safety

- Electrical cords are not allowed at any level of competition due to the danger they create in the aisles.
- No items should hang over the edge of the table or be placed on the floor. However, students may hold or wear items that coordinate with the project, if desired. Items used for the project are not to be alive, valuable, or dangerous.

Categories

Please pay close attention to **all** categories listed in Appendix A: Mississippi Reading Fair Categories.

- Students in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to share their favorite non-fiction book. All students deciding to do so are to compete in the Individual Category, within their specified grade group (Divisions H-I). All other entries should only represent **fictional** books.

Note: Remember the school's librarian is an excellent resource for determining if the book selected is indeed fictional. Please see appendices B & C for clarifying information on both text types.

- Family division projects should portray a book appropriate to the age of the student(s). The student(s) should be very knowledgeable about the book's story elements and should have an active part in the construction of the display. Individual and group categories will be judged more closely on whether the project shows work appropriate for the age level of the student.

Note: If a group or family project has students in various grades, the project should be placed in the division of the oldest student.

Competitions

- The first place winner of each category division at the local level will advance to the district level. District Reading Fairs should be completed by **January 31**, but may be held as early as **October 31**. District Reading Fair winners in each division will advance to one of the Regional Reading Fairs at a location to be determined by the Mississippi Department of Education. Regional Fairs will be scheduled during **February-March**. The first place regional winner in each category will advance to the State Reading Fair, which will be scheduled on the **Third Tuesday in April**, each year, at the Department of Education in Jackson.
- Each school district may be represented by only **one** project from each division at the Regional Reading Fair.