



File no.: 21/2/9/3/8/ Expo for Young Scientists (EFYS)
Reference: 20240402-2841

Curriculum GET Minute: 0004/2024

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors (Head Office and district offices), Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Heads: Management and Governance, Subject Advisers and Principals of secondary schools

Subject: Call for learners, 11–18 years old, to participate in the 2024 provincial Expo for Young Scientists

1. The Expo for Young Scientists (EFYS) is a hands-on programme that ignites a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Innovation (STEMI) among young learners, aged 11 to 18. It aims to foster 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving and communication in a scientific context, encouraging learners to participate in research projects and to develop a strong foundation in STEMI fields. These skills and values contribute to the upliftment of families and communities in a changing world.
2. The EFYS was established in 1980 to achieve the following:
 - inspire the youth of South Africa to participate in STEMI activities to promote an interest in these areas and develop life changing scientific skills; and
 - to create opportunities for young students to use strategies that energise learning and to prepare them to embrace STEMI subjects and, potentially, steer them into scientific academic and career trajectories.
3. The EFYS aligns with:
 - The Western Cape Education Department's vision to provide quality education for every learner, in every classroom, in every school in the province.
 - The provincial Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) strategy.
 - Expo Vision, which inspires young scientists and researchers, and seeks to enhance and strengthen the curriculum delivered through activities aligned to the MST subjects.
4. To prepare learners for the EFYS, activities are implemented throughout the academic year with the following focus per term:

- **Term 1:** Training workshops to prepare the learners.
- **Term 2:** Monitoring progress at the district expos to provide feedback to learners. All the learners should participate in a school or district expo to be considered for Regional Science Fairs (RSFs) participation. The school or district expo will be presented in the different districts across the province for learners to enter. **See ANNEXURE A.**
 - **Note:** The importance of these sessions will be to provide successful participants the necessary feedback to upgrade their projects for the RSF.
- **Term 3:** Four RSFs will take place in Cape Town, Eden Karoo, Stellenbosch, and West Coast where learners will present quality projects. The RSF provides selected learners who have displayed innovative ideas the opportunity to compete at the International Science Fair (ISF) which takes place in Gauteng.
- **Term 4:** A comprehensive Teacher Professional Development programme to coach educators on how best to prepare learners for the expo competition.

5. **2023 EFYS successes**

RSF: A 30% increase in learner participation, with 50% of the participants receiving medals.

ISF: 97% of the projects participated and 95% of the finalists received medals as follows: three in the junior and six in the senior categories. In addition, 15 finalists received special awards.

6. Schools are encouraged to provide learners with innovative ideas the opportunities to enter the competition. Learners can find ideas through:
- making observations within their environments and communities;
 - addressing the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; or
 - using the 13 expo categories, as outlined in the *Expo Project Guidebook*. The link to access this resource is the following: <https://exposcience.co.za/get-involved/resources/>
7. Learners are encouraged to use the STEM club or science sessions at school to develop the project idea.
8. For more information regarding the RSF, see **ANNEXURE B**.
9. For any information required, please contact Lyndon Manas, the provincial coordinator for the EFYS at Lyndon@exposcience.co.za or 083 246 3667.
10. Principals are requested to bring the content of this minute to the attention of relevant educators.

SIGNED: B LORISTON

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2024-04-10