

Project Review

In Colorado, there are three to five levels of review that a student's project may need to pass through for competition purposes. If any of the review groups feel that there was a serious breach of ethical or safety protocols when the student did their project, they can deem the project has failed to qualify and not allow the Student Researcher(s) to compete – even if the prior review board approved the project.

Scientific Review Committee

A Scientific Review Committee (SRC) is a group of qualified individuals that is responsible for evaluating project procedures to make sure that all safety and legal requirements will be met and that the appropriate forms have been completed. The committee is composed of at least 3 people: a biomedical scientist with an earned doctoral degree, an educator and one other member.

If a student's project involves vertebrate animals and/or potentially hazardous biological agents (microorganisms, rDNA, tissue), then the experimental procedures must be approved by the local SRC BEFORE a Student Researcher may begin working on the experimental portion of their project.

Institutional Review Board

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) is a group of individuals that is responsible for evaluating project procedures involving human subjects to make sure that all safety and legal and confidentiality requirements will be met and that the appropriate forms have been completed. The committee is composed of at least 3 people: an educator, a school administrator, and a psychologist, doctor (MD) or nurse (RN).

Regulated Research Institution Review Board

If a Student Researcher is working in a laboratory at a university or other research institution, projects involving vertebrates, humans, tissue, rDNA and microorganisms must be reviewed and approved by that institution's review board (not the Qualified Scientist) BEFORE a Student Researcher may begin work on the experimental portion of their project. Some institution may not review all of these types of projects – if they don't, then this must be certified by the Qualified Scientist and approved by the local/school SRC on Form 6A.

Regional SRC

This group of people will review the student's paperwork for compliance with the rules set forth here and paperwork completion.

State SRC

This group of people will review the paperwork for the students who have been chosen to compete at the state level for compliance with the rules set forth here and paperwork completion.

In order to eliminate conflict of interest, the Adult Sponsor, parents, Qualified Scientist(s) and Designated Supervisor(s) MUST NOT serve on any SRC or IRB reviewing that project.

Inquiries regarding specific experimental procedures or questions regarding the rules can be directed to either the CSEF SRC or the Intel ISEF SRC at:

Intel ISEF SRC
SRC@societyforscience.org
Dr. Chris Miller, Chair

CSEF SRC
csef@colostate.edu
Dr. Doug Everett, Chair

‘When in doubt, fill it out!’