

IDEA 2025

Competition FAQs

2025:

Q: For AD and ED could you confirm if my students can use their display board AND a PowerPoint as the "medium of your choice"?

A: Teams can use both during their presentation.

Q: Students are hoping they can get a picture, or pictures, or a model number of the motorized wheelchair Michael uses for the ED problem.

Q: My students are reviewing the Engineering Design prompt, and we are asking for clarification on the mobility of the client. It is written that he is a quadriplegic, but then talks about him being able to break down, store, and access the assistive grabber. Is the client able to use his arms/hands? If so, what level of mobility does he have?

Q: If Michael is a quadriplegic the students would really need and appreciate pictures (or information) of how/what his head/mouth etc does to operate his wheelchair so we know what head movements, mouth functions etc he can use for the grabber. Will this be possible?

A: His chair is called a "Permobil F3", here's a picture, and one of him in his chair.



A: He is a quad. I triple checked. He has limited mobility in his arms so technically he is a quad. Good questions though. From: ILTECH Sponsor/Problem writer

Previous years Questions.

Q: I wanted to double check on the AD/ED division State qualifier metrics. At COD we had two ED schools. Our school took Second. I know it is typically first and second to state for other events. If I recall correctly, that is still the case for AD/ED?

Also, in the AD division we were the only school to compete, so we were first in that one. They would go down to state as well ?

If you could confirm, I would appreciate it.

A: Due to timing and logistics at State only the 1st place AD and ED Regional teams advance since 2019. The 1st couple of years we only had 4-5 Regionals competing so we had 1st and 2nd advance. We now have 10+ Regionals with teams which required this change.

Q: The 1st place finisher in 3D Assembly Modeling came to me today stating that he might have a date conflict with track for IDEA State Competition. Can the 3rd place finisher (also one of my students) take the 1st finisher's place?

A: Schools cannot bump a student up if a higher placing student withdraws. Whatever they placed at Regionals locks them in for advancing to State.

Q: My AD team placed second at the Regional Competition, do I register them for State?

A: Only 1st place teams in the AD and ED teams advance to the State Competition due to the time constraints associated with getting the presentations completed and scored.

Q: In the past the AD and ED competitions allowed 2nd place Regional teams to enter the State Competition, but I see that has been changed. Why the change?

A: This is the first year, 2023, we have limited it to just 1st place Regional teams. This is due to the number of Regionals that presently have teams competing. We only have time to judge a maximum of 8-10 teams with one judging panel per competition. We may need to add more panels if all 15 Regionals have teams.

Q: There are now 3 places to enter students on the State registration Form, should I enter my Regional 3rd place finishers?

A: Only 1st and 2nd go to State. In a few big Regionals with big competitions there can be 1-1st and 2- 2nds and multiple 3rds. A teacher made me aware of this so I updated the Form. That school took 1st and both 2nds.

Q: Are RDs planning to notify the state of the place winners via a Web site portal?

A: Teachers will register their students for State, RDs will just send us results so we know the students competed at your Regional. RDs may use the submittal Form or Sheet, whichever works best for them.

Q: Are the students going to be answering their exam questions online at Regionals and State? If so, how does that work if a school brings their own workstations? Do we provide them with Internet/WiFi so they can log into the site when competing?

A: Students will be given the links to the written part for those tests. Proctors will share these with the students, they will enter answers digitally- computer, phone,etc .

Q: Is it possible to include that we will be bringing a team of kids for the Engineering Design Team Competition without including the students' names at this time? We are planning on bringing kids to this event with us, but we won't know until next month which team we will be bringing.

A: Put in placeholder names, John Doe, but let your Regional Director know the change if it happens after Final registration on 2/1.

Question:

Is the state competition 4/? Would this just be a day trip for teachers and students?

Also, what would the engineering design team do for state? Would it be an entirely separate

problem?

Answer.

State is April ??? and most likely is just a day trip depending on how you set it up for your school.

Engineering design competition will be a presentation of the project they have already created and placed with at Regionals- it can be revised for State

Question:

Who will attend the Unattached/Open Regional?

Answer:

It was decided at the 2/5/22 Board meeting that the Unattached/Open Regional will consist of the entries from the past Regionals who currently are unable to host, and any schools who are not in a Regional area, or any schools who were not able to compete due to school cancellations, weather, etc.

Question:

RD----Since Virtual is all being done electronically and remotely why is there a window of a month for the contest to occur. Why not just pick a day or week and have them all run at the same time? We are all going to be grading these over a period of time, since we will be waiting for mailed entries, so it doesn't have to coordinate with any specific schedule. Setting a date or short window would be more fair to the students and reduce the opportunity for cheating.

Answer:

We are offering the Virtual window for testing because our high school teachers may not be able to get all their students together for testing. They may only bring in/administer to limited numbers at a time. They may have to give it virtually. We are going to leave how they give it up to their students as it fits their circumstances. That is why we are asking for a due date from RDs so teachers know when their entries have to be submitted. We want them all submitted by a date so that RDs can have one day to arrange for judging if they are going the traditional evaluation route.

As far as cheating goes we are going to have to trust teachers to be ethical professionals and figure out how to limit/eliminate cheating. We are asking them to test all 3 students doing the same competitions at the same time.

Q: Why doesn't the IDEA Board just release the problems to the high school teachers competing Virtually on 2/16 and eliminate the RDs from that step?

A: IDEA will release the competition problem folder links to all schools competing Virtually on 2/16 and they can administer the competitions when it fits their circumstances and just submit

the solutions to the RDs by the RDs submission dates. This will remove one step for the RDs.

Q: Our school has been forced to use online software - OnShape-for class, can we use it for the IDEA competition?

A: You and your students can use any software available to them, but 2D competition must be done with 2D software only. 2D competitions cannot be done with 3D software and converted to 2D solution. Intro CADD, Machine CADD, and 2D Architectural CADD must all be completed with strictly 2D CADD software. Please communicate with your RD about software and BYOD questions.

Q: When is the deadline to submit competitors' Virtual work back to the RD? I see it is released on 2/15, but I'm not sure when it is due. Please let me know and I will set my competition date.

A: Submission dates depend on your Regional, please check the Regional Competition Sites PDF on our website for your date.

Q: What are the latest updates concerning the 2024 Regional Competition?

A: We have been working through this year's virtual competition and the IDEA Board will meet in early February to wrap up details which we will be sharing with participating teachers and RDs.

IDEA will be releasing the competition problems to teachers on 2/16 for Virtual Regionals. Teachers will have until your assigned Regional date to drop their student's work into the RDs evaluation folders. The teachers will administer the test however it fits their situation. We are asking that students taking the same test take it at the same time.

RDs will get the problems, keys, etc and Regional competitor list folder access. Once your Regional window closes you/ your team will evaluate the work. You will still award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places as earned and rank all submissions and turn in your results to us as in the past by 4/1. Regionals can announce their winners and do PR however it fits their situation, i.e. zoom, Google meet, PowerPoint, etc. IDEA will send medals to the high schools directly for Virtual place winners.

Q: Are zip file bundles okay to turn into folders?

A: Please communicate with your Regional Director. I think dropping the PDFs and the native CAD files in the folder is what most RDs are expecting.

Q: We got the students' score sheets from our Regional today, but no answer keys. In the past we have received those also and was wondering if they were supposed to pass those on also?

A: We will release answer keys after 3/25 and after the final Regional competitions take place.

State Questions:

Q: What are the latest updates concerning the 2024 State Competition?

A: RDs will submit their results by 4/1, teachers will submit their qualifiers by 4/1. The State competition will be held at ISU on the date posted on the IDEA site. State will be an InPerson competition as in the past.

Q: What is the cost for students to register for State?

A: The IDEA Board has not ever charged a separate fee for the State Competition. Regional \$15 fees are the only ones collected.