

# Academic Competitions – Rider 21



## General Description:

State grants are awarded to entities in order to foster academic competitions, primarily for high school students. Funding is used for teacher training and student participation in the academic competitions.

## Authority:

General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 21, 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, 2017

## Individual Program Details:

### MATHCOUNTS

MATHCOUNTS provides fun and challenging mathematics programs for middle school students to build math skills, promote critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and heighten student interest in mathematics. Through the MATHCOUNTS Competition Program, students take part in individual and team competitions consisting of written and oral rounds. MATHCOUNTS provides the materials for teachers, volunteers, and students to use as they prepare for the competition program. Participants advance through school, chapter, and state competitions until the student finalists are selected to advance to the MATHCOUNTS national competition held each May.

### Texas Academic Decathlon

The Texas Academic Decathlon provides middle and high school students with extracurricular opportunities focusing on academic preparation, critical-thinking, and speech and interview presentation skills. Texas Academic Decathlon students participate in local, regional, state, and national competitions. Each nine-member team must represent students from all academic levels and include students with grade point averages of A, B, and C. These students compete in ten academic subjects ranging from art and music to math and science. Team members must also write a timed essay and give an impromptu speech as well as a prepared speech. High-scoring individuals are eligible for college scholarships. The highest scoring Decathlon team advances to the U.S. Academic Decathlon national tournament.

## Funding:

Sources: General Appropriations Act, Article III, Rider 21, 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, 2017

Appropriation	FY 2018	FY 2019
	\$400,000	\$400,000
Use of Funds		
MATHCOUNTS	\$200,000	\$200,000
Academic Decathlon	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Total Projected Expenditures for the Biennium:</b>		<b>\$800,000</b>

## Resources:

Academic Decathlon website - <http://www.txacadec.org/>

MATHCOUNTS website - <http://www.tspe.org/?page=StateCompResults>

## Program Impact 2017-2018

### MATHCOUNTS

- Almost 2,000 students competed around the state
- 288 students competed at state competition representing 250 schools

Texas finalists placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2018 national MATHCOUNTS individual competition in Washington, D.C.

The Texas team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the national team completion.

### Texas Academic Decathlon

#### Lone Star Challenge:

108 teams of elementary school students

#### Texas Academic Pentathlon:

162 teams of middle school students

#### Academic Octathlon:

46 teams of high school students

#### Academic Decathlon:

247 teams

Total students: 7,000