

# Implementing Invention Convention in your school

## 2023-24 Suggested Timeline:

Sept.-Feb.: Implement curriculum as you are able, making sure to allot at least a few lessons on projects and the invention process.

Feb.-March: Consider holding a school competition for Hearthstone staff to judge. Determine which students should move forward to the state competition.

March-April: Prepare students who will move forward and ensure their materials are ready to submit for the state competition.

April 8-10: Hearthstone judges submissions from across the state using a virtual, asynchronous platform called zFairs.

April 11: Students and teachers are notified of whether they will move forward to the U.S Nationals competition at The Henry Ford. They also receive feedback to improve their inventions and submission materials.

April-May: Students can make changes to inventions and materials as needed. Fundraising and registration for U.S Nationals.

June 5-7: U.S Nationals competition in Dearborn, Michigan.

**Invention Convention Worldwide introduces your students to a world in which they can solve their own problems and gain the confidence and 21st-century skills to invent their own future. The program features hands-on, real-world, project-based learning activities and exciting events. It helps students to gain a new and innovative mindset for life.**

**We're here to support you in integrating Invention Convention Worldwide into your school day, class or after-school programming and to ensure a successful student experience. For your planning needs, here are best practices and quick tips to consider prior to implementing the program.**

### 1. Select your Invention Convention team.

Many staff members can play roles. Teachers, enrichment leads, STEM coordinators, after-school coordinators and others may all support each other. The duties your team will perform include: teaching the curriculum, registering your school, registering students for Invention Convention events, paying registration fees, receiving communications from us, contacting us with questions, outreach to parents and community, and securing funding as needed.

### 2. Decide which students you will teach.

Which grade levels are you targeting? Do you hope to add this program into a specific class? It is amazing to see your students' growth when they have multiple opportunities to invent. Even if you start with a small pilot, consider how you can expand your program the following year. Consider involving multiple grade levels.

### 3. Develop a program schedule.

Instruction typically takes 6-12+ weeks, depending on how often classes are held and how much time you have to dedicate to the Invention Convention program. Will your program be held before school, during class time, at lunchtime or after school? Do you have time in science class, STEM class, enrichment class or intervention time? Decide if you want students to do the majority of the work in school or at home, and download our free Invention Convention curriculum at [inventionconvention.org/curriculum](http://inventionconvention.org/curriculum).

### 4. Set a date and location for your school's Invention Fair event.

You will need to hold your school's event before the registration date for your state Invention Convention. Your event is a celebratory culmination of the program and a means of selecting which inventors should advance to other events.



**We're here to help you and your inventors.**

**Contact:**

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**with questions**

**Learn more at  
[inventionconvention.org](http://inventionconvention.org)**

**5. Set budget and secure funding.** While running an Invention Convention program at your school is not expensive, some funding is required. Typical annual expenses for a school include:

- School registration.
- Professional development. (Invention Convention hosts workshops across the state.)
- Awards and incidentals for your school Invention Fair (if needed).
- State Invention Convention: Registration fees can be paid by the school, district or parents.
- Invention Convention U.S. Nationals: Registration fees for inventors invited to the national competition can be paid for by school, district or parents.
- Bus to transport inventors and their families to our events (if needed, not required).
- Teacher stipend (if required).

**6. Register your school/program.** Online registration is required for all schools and programs. The deadline for school registration is \_\_\_\_\_ . Registration gives you access to state and national Invention Convention events, as well as communications and support from the Invention Convention team.

**7. Plan for professional development.** We highly recommend professional development for teachers new to the program. Sessions offer a great opportunity to connect with other teachers from your area who are running Invention Convention programs. Registration and payment are required in advance of classes. Ask us about professional development sessions.

**8. Host a kickoff meeting for students and parents.** Get students motivated to participate in Invention Convention. This is particularly important if you are running the Invention Convention program outside of your normal school curriculum. Tell parents about your plans and solicit participation. We can assist you with resources to help get your students excited about the program (videos, flyers, success stories). Hold an informational session for parents so they understand what is required of their child.

**9. Hold your school Invention Fair.** Invite your community (local businesses, civic organizations and other volunteers) to attend your school Invention Fair as judges. These volunteers can help you select which inventors should advance to the state Invention Convention. Train your judges so that they understand the rubric and will offer proper feedback to your inventors on invention improvement. Invite families, other classes and district administration to join the celebration and view the displays.

**10. Select the inventors to attend the state Invention Convention.** The percentage of your students who can move on to our event will be announced in:

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
Register your inventors selected for the state Invention Convention, and communicate the details of the day with parents.

**11. Raise funds for inventors selected for Invention Convention U.S. Nationals.** Invention Convention U.S. Nationals is an exciting event for your selected young inventors. If you are interested in helping them travel to The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, to participate in the national event, you may want to help raise funds for their costs (transportation, lodging, event registration, chaperone costs).