

National Director of Science Olympiad: Dr. Gerard J. Putz

Dear Dr. Gerard J Putz,

I am writing to urge you to change the National Science Olympiad's Policy on team qualifications for Homeschoolers.

I am sure you are aware of the rule that states, "Science Olympiad will recognize Home School Teams consisting only of students who live within the boundaries of two contiguous (side-by-side) geographic counties in a single state."

We feel this ruling unfairly affects the number of students that have the opportunity to participate in this wonderful activity. The across the board restriction does not take into account the county size, state borders, population density, homeschool co-ops and coach availability and many other issues.

Our county borders another state, our co-op meets weekly at a location that is actually further from my house than it is from many students that come from across state lines. As stated in the petition, there are some states with many very small counties that have a limited amount of homeschool students. I could go on and on with examples about how difficult this ruling makes it for those of us who choose to homeschool our students to participate in Science Olympiad.

As homeschoolers, it is difficult to find enough students with the time to take on an extracurricular activity such as Science Olympiad. It is a sad situation when you have families who are willing to drive the extra distance to allow their kids to participate with a team, to only be told that they are not allowed.

I have coached Science Olympiad for 6 years. I know the time and commitment it takes to coach it. I also know how difficult it is to get parents to assist in coaching to say nothing of asking them to take on the responsibility of being a head coach. This ruling makes it very difficult for students that are not within a 2 county one state distance of an existing team to

participate.

We only want to be treated the same as other teams. We don't want preferential treatment. To form a team requires constant support and monitoring and it takes a determined soul to accept the responsibility. Therefore, there are not a multitude of homeschool teams. Public schools have teachers/coaches, facilities and funds to teach children. Many public schools are allowed to recruit students from several counties. Private schools have the same benefits and are allowed to recruit students from all counties, states, countries and continents. Homeschoolers are a group of families, most with limited resources that only want the best for their children. They want them to learn beyond the textbook and test the application of this knowledge. This ruling was established on the fear of homeschoolers building a "super team" but this ruling is preventing so many bright, wonderful students from experiencing the wonders of Science Olympiad.

As more and more people are considering homeschool as a legitimate alternative to traditional schooling, many highly intelligent students will not get to experience Science Olympiad with this restriction. We should be searching ways to facilitate those willing to lead these students and encourage them to reach out and recruit.

During my years of coaching I have been blessed to meet some amazing kids. Each year, we are faced with the task of telling students (that meet at our co-op every week for a full day of learning) they may stay and practice science olympiad with us but they may not compete at certain levels. A Yahoo group [science olympiad coaches](#) has multiple comments from homeschool coaches that are forced to do the same. Many of the comments are from public and private school coaches that feel this is an unfair restriction on homeschoolers. Please take a moment and view some of these conversations. I am asking you to please reconsider this ruling and discuss its impact with other state directors when you meet at the National Competition.

We love Science Olympiad. It has played a major role in my child's education and I just want the same for others. I am asking you to please reconsider this ruling and discuss its impact with other state directors when you meet at the National Competition.

Below you will find the results of a petition that we recently ran. You can see that there are people from all over the country that support changing the restrictions on homeschool teams.

Thank you. Kathy Watson

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2.	Sandra Corry	Hixson, TN	
3.	Leah Richards	Chatsworth, GA	
4.	Donna Brown	Hoschton, GA	Our middle school team had 7 this year and our high school team had 11. With the number of counties in GA (255) this rule makes it very difficult. Making a rule to limit the ability of of group to gain participants doesn't necessarily level the playing field any. If it does its a discrepant event. We never had a full team before the 2 county rule and will never have one with the 2 county rule.... It's basically a statistic impossibility because of the number of homeschoolers in the county we meet in. (Small county, touches 8 others, from the center out less than 20 miles and you are out of some of those counties!) Fulton and Gwinnett county touch each other. They are the most populous counties in Georgia. It would be possible to be 50 miles or more from the meeting location and still be within the rules. They cover a huge amount of square miles and population. So the "rules" have no iota of fairness built it. It's the luck of the draw to what county you are in.
5.	Laura Moseley	Soddy Daisy, TN	
6.	Jennifer Ferguson	Hixson, TN	
7.	Kari Narramore	Dalton, GA	
8.	Kristi Cooke	Chattanooga, TN	I know kids who can't compete because they live in a rural county without a homeschool team. Please consider changing the rule.
9.	Suzanne Ruckman	Harrison, TN	
10.	Melissa Hill	Soddy Daisy, TN	
11.	Anne Bridgforth	HIXSON, TN	
12.	Priscilla Tarpley	Lenoir City, TN	This is totally unfair to home schoolers!
13.	Jennifer Stansel	Resaca, GA	The rule should be no different for homeschooled children than private schools.
14.	Melvina Hanevich	Sale Creek, TN	
15.	Katie Wallen	Gainesville, GA	
16.	Jennifer Maughan	Colorado Springs, CO	
17.	nikki sikes	chattanooga, TN	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
18.	Jackie Gray	Hixson, TN	
19.	Tiffany Mullings	Ephrata, WA	
20.	Elisabeth kaegi	Manitou Springs, CO	
21.	Jennifer Schulmeister	Hixson, TN	
22.	Diana Perkins	Woodland Park, CO	Especially in states that allow open enrollment for public schools, the 2-county rule restricts homeschool teams above and beyond restrictions for public schools. Schools in our area are drawing from more than 20 counties in some cases. No one I know is thinking about a super-team...how about just a team with kids who would really just love to part of SO?
23.	Stephanie Sullivan	Chattanooga, TN	
24.	Cheri Boyd	Dalton, GA	I home school my 6 year old son. Right now he is too young to be a part of Science Olympiad, but in a couple of years he would love to be a part of a home school team. I would like to see the policy changed for his sake, as well as for the sake of the other home schoolers who have done well, but won't be allowed to move forward in the competition because of where they live.
25.	Mary Mayberry	Hixson, TN	
26.	Tricia Gallagher	Auburn, GA	
27.	Marianne West	Chatsworth, GA	
28.	Rusha Woodson	Soddy daisy, TN	
29.	Corrie Ceraolo	hixson, TN	
30.	Brian Penny	Sale Creek, TN	
31.	Sandy Matthews	Wake Forest, NC	
32.	Andrea Quering	Soddy Daisy, TN	Please allow homeschool teams to form with whomever is able to join. It is so difficult to get enough students to field a complete team. The rule that applies to homeschool teams exclusively to homeschoolers stating that students must live within two contiguous geographic counties is hindering and unfair. Thank you.
33.	Melissa Hale	Hixson, TN	
34.	Clyde Rogers	Chatsworth, GA	
35.	MJ Justus	PURCELLVILLE, VA	
36.	Augusta Arwood	Hixson, TN	
37.	Connie McNamara	Hixson, TN	
38.	Marji Cyril	Hixson, TN	It's a struggle to find enough kids to participate in Science Olympiad. We don't have the advantage of a large base of school kids to draw from.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
39.	becky plotner	soddy daisy, TN	The percentage of homeschoolers in the region can not compete with those within a district. We had 14 total compete from two adjacent states where the team lives just north of the boundary.
40.	Ginene Reed	Loudon, TN	
41.	Kathy Watson	SALE CREEK, TN	
42.	Vanessa Palmer	McMinnville, TN	
43.	Kelly Benthem	Colorado Springs, CO	We have had to turn away kids from a few miles away, even though we are unable to completely fill our teams.
44.	Linda Ponseti	Chattanooga, TN	
45.	Benny Rees	Bristol, United Kingdom	
46.	Ronda Combs	Beech Grove, IN	
47.	Sherri LaRue	Nashville, TN	Why is there still so much discrimination against homeschoolers?
48.	Charity Price	Wilmington, OH	
49.	Lisa Dalton	Chattanooga, TN	
50.	Christie roach	Jasper, TN	
51.	Kelly Bell	Colorado Springs, CO	Our team has had to turn away dozens of students due to this rule while public and private schools in our state don't have to turn away students due to their county of residence. It hurts to turn them away when we have open slots.
52.	lisa Freeman	USAFA, CO	
53.	Cheryl Wright	Elbert, CO	
54.	Roberta Loa	Colo Spgs, CO	This is a very restrictive measure on a productive, but already numerically challenged, group, which results in many prospective team members being excluded from SO. It needs to be changed, with input from people in the field.
55.	sandy levitt	roswell, GA	
56.	Judy Fedie	Colorado Springs, CO	
57.	Sharon Patterson	Prairieville, LA	
58.	Miriam Dixon	Apison, TN	
59.	Angela Atherton	Harrison, TN	
60.	Jennifer Pendleton	Harrison, TN	
61.	Andrew & Rhonda Huffman	Hixson, TN	
62.	Jera Dalton	Canon City, CO	
63.	Jeri Johnson	Chattanooga, TN	
64.	Sherii Kelley	Hixson, TN	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
65.	Christopher Dalton	Canon City, CO	We live in a rural county with no strong homeschool group to partner with for science olympiad. If we're not allowed to join up with students from multiple neighboring counties, we won't ever get the benefits of collaboration and knowledge sharing that other teams experience. Why hamstring a student because his parents live in the wrong county?
66.	Jeremy Poarch	Soddy Daisy, TN	
67.	Yvonne Clark	Red Bank, TN	
68.	Gabrielle Harder	Colorado Springs, CO	In just our first year I've already seen this restrictive rule hurt our homeschool team. It also hurts homeschooled young men and women that desire to advance and apply their studies in this area.
69.	Karen Cooke	Chattanooga, TN	
70.	Sarah Cooke	Chattanooga, TN	
71.	Robert Harder	Colorado Springs, CO	
72.	Jessica oliver	harrison, TN	
73.	Sharon Ford	Colorado Springs, CO	
74.	Shannon Kellogg	Ooltewah, TN	
75.	Allison Haupert	Soddy Daisy, TN	
76.	Billie Allison	Hixson, TN	
77.	Shelly Navarrete	Trenton, TN	
78.	Kylie Neal	Chattanooga, TN	It is unfair that private schools can form teams consisting of children from many different counties/states, but homeschool teams cannot. Please consider changing this so that the rules that apply to private schools are the same rules that apply to homeschoolers. Thank you.
79.	Amy Germ	Hixson, TN	
80.	Jesica Womack	Hixson, TN	
81.	Terri Stout	Signal Mountain, TN	
82.	Jamie Bell	Colorado Springs, CO	
83.	Caroline Hunt	Soddy Daisy, TN	
84.	Jennifer Broome	Graysville, TN	
85.	Anneliese Brincks	New Albany, OH	
86.	Mary Bell	Colorado Springs, CO	
87.	Nikola Dobric	Belgrade, Serbia	
88.	Lisa woodard	Colorado Springs, CO	
89.	Amy Jones	Dayton, TN	I feel that it is unfair to distinguish homeschoolers from other school programs. This is a discriminatory action.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
90.	Alan Broome	Graysville, TN	It is a shame they are placing restrictions on homeschoolers that they are not placing on public, private, or charter school pupils. Across the board homeschoolers consistently outperform their peers. Could it be they are trying to eliminate the competition?
91.	Suzanne Lowe	Hixson, TN	
92.	Anna401 Fay Drive Witt	Colorado Springs, CO	
93.	Autumn Eidson	Bremen, GA	
94.	Treese kjeldsen	Colorado Springs, CO	
95.	Deena Duncan	Colorado Springs, CO	
96.	Jenifer Parr	Colorado Springs, CO	Please be sure to change this policy as it is quite hypocritical to hold only the homeschool team to this rule.
97.	Vincent Sabio	Reston, VA	
98.	Bob Harder	Windsor, CA	Even the playing field - fair to one, fair to all.
99.	Evan Maughan	Colorado Springs, CO	
100.	Ronald Shinn	Birmingham, AL	
101.	Sue Hoeffel	Colorado Springs, CO	
102.	David Benthem	coloraosprings, CO	
103.	Jessica Pipe	Chattanooga, TN	
104.	Renay Branam	Lakesite dr, TN	
105.	Paulo Reeson	Toronto, Canada	
106.	Rebekah Davis	Hixson, TN	
107.	Natasha Salgado	Toronto, Canada	
108.	Joy Maples	Manitou Springs, CO	
109.	Marta Sanchez Trabanco	La Nucia, Spain	
110.	Ashton summers	Hixson, TN	
111.	Dale Poynter	Eau Claire, WI	
112.	Abreea malley	hixson, TN	
113.	William Lane	Colorado Springs, CO	
114.	Linda Brown	Hixson, TN	
115.	Sara Peterson	Colorado Springs, CO	
116.	Whitney wade	Lompoc, CA	
117.	Tim Slade	OREANA, IL	
118.	Michelle Cozart	Gallatin, TN	
119.	Jennifer Gilbert	Ooltewah, TN	
120.	Leslie Bannier	Signal Mountain, TN	
121.	Megan Lewis	Soddy Daisy, TN	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
122.	Kimberly Kuist	Hixson, TN	
123.	Kelly Brown	jasper, TN	
124.	Patti Treece	Andersonville, TN	
125.	Jill Wyse	Chattanooga, TN	
126.	Rebecca Edge	White, GA	
127.	pennie hendrick	Dayton, TN	
128.	Becky Ensinger	Dayton, TN	
129.	Crystal Faudi	Soddy daisy, TN	
130.	Jane Skonberg	Lookout Mountain, GA	
131.	Melissa Keown	Colorado Springs, CO	
132.	lola patton	salem, OR	
133.	Jeff Perkins	Cedar Park, TX	
134.	Dasa Williams	Tucson, AZ	
135.	Sarah hill	no thank you, TN	
136.	Alayne Erickson	Hixson, TN	
137.	Angelic Sikes	Colleyville, TX	
138.	Darlene Fair	Fort Worth, TX	
139.	Sandra Coughlin	Buford, GA	
140.	Clay Sikes	Bedford, TX	
141.	Julie Faulkner	Franktown, CO	Let the students compete! We learned SO MUCH in our time with SO, what a shame that others might miss out!
142.	Taylor Ervin	Litchfield Park, AZ	
143.	Sharon Wang	Colorado Springs, CO	
144.	Jodie Hartfield	Colorado Springs, CO	
145.	Julie Hackbarth	Colleyville, TX	
146.	Charles Sharman	Colorado Springs, CO	
147.	Natalie Russell	Joshua, TX	
148.	charlotte rouse	morecambe, United Kingdom	
149.	Kristen Anderson	Tucson, AZ	
150.	Ciara rogers	Keller, TX	
151.	Melissa Ingram	Harrison, TN	
152.	Sandy Weeks	Soddy Daisy, TN	
153.	Sarah Hale	Huntsville, AL	Hamilton County is so close to the Tennessee Georgia state line that it is understandable that some students have Georgia addresses. The area called "The Tennessee Valley" should be considered not the street addresses.
154.	Frances Wooden	Pikeville, TN	



	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
155.	Beth DaPolito	Woodland Park, CO	
156.	Cynthia James-Catalano	Apison, TN	
157.	Teri Swainson	Hixson, TN	
158.	Janette Hilliard	Hixson, TN	
160.	Mary Maxwell	Hixson, TN	
161.	Richard Kraker	Redmond, WA	
162.	Janis King	RENO, NV	
163.	Kathy Beers	Colo Spgs, CO	As a retired teacher (33 years in the public arena), I believe that these restrictions are totally out of line. These home schoolers are often our "best and brightest". One group should NOT be penalized when others are not!! Please make this wrong right!
164.	Michael Melugin	Buford, GA	
165.	carol thigpin	Mount Juliet, TN	
166.	Anthony Ramirez	Colorado Springs, CO	
167.	Carrie Woods	Ooltewah, TN	
168.	Tanya Newland	Dayton, TN	
169.	Debbie Gray	Monument, CO	
170.	Alison Ostrin	Ventura, CA	
171.	Mary Harrell	Divide, CO	
172.	Shirley Troxler	Chattanooga, TN	
173.	Janna McKenna	Hixson, TN	
174.	Meghan Jones	soddy Daisy, TN	
175.	Melissa Roach	Chattanooga, TN	
176.	angie neighbors	Soddy Daisy, TN	
177.	Courtney Steckler	Omaha, NE	
178.	Lisa Bennett	Hixson, TN	
179.	Laura Deardoff	Bennington, NE	I am shocked that the homeschool team is disqualified by such a limiting rule.
180.	Mckenzie Hassler	Soddy Daisy, TN	
181.	Stephanie Camenisch	Soddy Daisy, TN	
182.	Mackenzie Joy Camenisch	Soddy Daisy, TN	
183.	Amber Milsaps	Soddy Daisy, TN	
184.	Holly Mathis	Pleasant Plains, IL	
185.	Christine Belleau	Colorado Springs, CO	
186.	Mandi Roberts	Hixson, TN	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
187.	Charity Cooke	Chattanooga, TN	
188.	Melissa Ramirez	Colorado Springs, CO	Enough is enough. This unfair rule needs to change. Every homeschooler who wants to join the Sci Oly team should be able to regardless of their county of residence. This stipulation hinders homeschoolers from expanding their scientific knowledge, rather than encouraging them.
189.	Allen Watson	Sale Creek, TN	There was a prospective student that visited our co-op today. They came to the co-op specifically because they wanted to do science olympiad. This young man's face was crestfallen (7th grader) when he discovered that although he could practice with us, he could not compete because he lived across the state line. It was heartbreaking.
190.	Kenneth Dieter	Colorado Springs, CO	
191.	Jodi Williams	Colorado Springs, CO	
192.	Beth Wheatcroft	Hixson, TN	
193.	Janice Varner	Soddy Daisy, TN	
194.	Robert Hale	Hixson, TN	
195.	Elizabeth Brawn	Mayfield, Australia	
196.	Brian Eschner	Colorado Springs, CO	Thank you for considering how to make to fair to everyone. I can see how you want to keep 1 team from "skimming" the best from all round the state, but some rural areas do not have a lot of homeschool students to be on a team within 2 counties.
197.	Jacob Trujillo	Hixson, TN	This kind of competition is good for all. Please allow them to participate.
198.	Teri Hancock	golden, CO	I was denied because I do not live in either county
199.	Rebecca Steckler	Saint Louis, MO	
200.	Jessica gutshall	Ringgold, GA	
201.	Bobbie Dake	Hixson, TN	
202.	Katheryn Adams	Chattanooga, TN	
203.	Adam Pemberton	Springfield, IL	
204.	Kjersti Nayar	Colorado Springs, CO	
205.	Jordan Roach	Chattanooga, TN	
206.	Cheryl Osteros	Divide, CO	All kids who love science should have the same opportunities whether they are homeschooled or not.
207.	Jane Wirth	Colorado Springs, CO	
208.	Betty Dixon	Austin, TX	
209.	Becky Malo	Chattanooga, TN	
210.	STEPHEN RICHARDS	Chatsworth, GA	
211.	William Richards	Chatsworth, GA	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
212.	Raine Ruffner	Chattanooga, TN	
213.	Olga Wollinka	Colorado Springs, CO	
214.	Tamera Harris	Colorado Springs, CO	
215.	Dawn Grubbs	Hixson, TN	
216.	Timothy Ponseti	Chattanooga, TN	
217.	Kristin Saum	Chattanooga, TN	
218.	Staci Eddins	Chattanooga, TN	
219.	Tara Lyles	Ringgold, GA	
220.	Iarissa braly	ringgold, GA	
221.	Wendy Steele	Ooltewah, TN	
222.	Stacey Lenters	Colorado Springs, CO	
223.	Cheri Etheridge	Chattanooga, TN	
224.	Tammy Parker	Eaton Rapids, MI	Homeschoolers are not seeking special treatment, just equity. Private & public schools are not restricted to counties, neither should we.
225.	Elizabeth Fust	Saint Johns, MI	
226.	Christine Taracks	Dimondale, MI	
227.	Traci Hall	Lansing, MI	
228.	Maureen Wittmann	Howell, MI	My children have participated and benefited greatly from Science Olympiad over the years. My current student is on a charter school team, but my other children participated on a homeschool team. It's been a real plus and made a positive difference in the lives. I hope this change is made so that other homeschooled children can experience all the great benefits has to offer them. It may mean the difference between a student choosing a science-related career (as it did with my children) or not. Thank you for listening.
229.	Heidi Stoll	Dimondale, MI	
230.	Christopher Schafer	Lansing, MI	This is about children learning. Lets make it more inclusive for home schoolers.
231.	Karen Mason	Williamston, MI	
232.	Amy Doerr	LANSING, MI	
233.	laura wittmann	Howell, MI	
234.	Annie Kitching	Lansing, MI	
235.	Michele Schafer	Lansing, MI	
236.	Sandy Wagenmaker	Okemos, MI	
237.	Ellen Crombie	Lansing, MI	
238.	Linda Biewer	St. Johns, MI	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
239.	Charles Fust	Marquette, MI	
240.	Nathan Schuck	Mason, MI	Think about it. A group of homeschoolers already only have a small pool to pick from. A team of 12 would probably represent 35% of the entire student body of the potential homeschoolers. In a small public school of 400 students, that would be a team of 160 students. Of course they need to be able to pull from more than just two districts.
241.	Kim Kurylo	Howell, MI	Homeschoolers are a great asset to any team. This rule seems to be discriminatory.
242.	Kim Winter	Lansing, MI	
243.	Yvonne Rinaldi	Houston, TX	
244.	Amy Finkenbinder	Lansing, MI	
245.	Susan Elliott	Mason, MI	Please reconsider this. Homeschoolers aren't asking for special treatment, only to be given the same standards as other schools. Please reconsider and make Science Olympiad an opportunity for ALL students to be a part, not just those in traditional brick & mortar schools.
246.	Richard Robbe	St Johns, MI	
247.	Kristine Correira	Charlton, MA	
248.	Michelle Rivet	Mason, MI	
249.	mary henle	Springfield, MA	
250.	Stephanie Stiles	Williamston, MI	
251.	Meghan Rinaldi	Houston, TX	
252.	Kristine Witkowski	Lansing, MI	
253.	sam Parker	Toronto, Canada	
254.	Douglas Nurenberg	Saint Johns, MI	
255.	Shabnam Plaisted	Hixson, TN	
256.	Jane Fijal	Grosse ile, MI	
257.	Alice Fust	Saint Johns, MI	
258.	Jeannette Hughes	HASLETT, MI	
259.	Christine Hebert	Chicopee, MA	Students from homeschool teams should be able to compete as a primary team.
260.	Paula Szkoda	Charlton, MA	
261.	C W	Evansville, WI	Homeschoolers should have greater opportunity to participate. Why limit it?
262.	Haley Fedewa	Holt, MI	
263.	Kay Pohl	Fowler, MI	
264.	Ann Stevenson	Lansing, MI	
265.	Rose Batdorff	Vermontville, MI	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
266.	Mike Kupiecki	Galesburg, MI	
267.	Catherine Wohlfert	Fowler, MI	
268.	Oralee Rivet	Lansing, MI	
269.	Brenda Miller	Collegedale, TN	
270.	Valerie Kinsora	Eaton Rapids, MI	I can't begin to tell you how important this is to homeschoolers! Homeschoolers are a dedicated bunch who travel many miles to provide quality educational experiences to their kids. Don't take science Olympiad away! Many schools have students from non-contiguous counties, so homeschoolers are not asking for special privileges. They just want to be considered a "school group", like all the others. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
271.	Amber Cook	Dunlap, TN	
272.	therese despelder	Lansing, MI	
273.	Casey Davis	Rock Spring, GA	
274.	Annette Legg	Soddy Daisy, TN	
275.	Terria burton	Ooltewah, TN	
276.	Deborah Spitler	Hanover, MD	
277.	Carla Burke	Lansing, MI	
278.	Michelle Szymanski	Mason, MI	
279.	Susan Hawthorne	Plano, TX	
280.	Cynthia Halstead	ANCHORAGE, AK	
281.	Kathy Erichsrud	Arlington, TX	
282.	Ellen Stukel	Naperville, IL	Please reconsider this rule. The "super-team" scenario does not reflect what is really happening in the homeschooling environment.
283.	Rachel Franklin	Versailles, KY	
284.	Wendy Krings	Schenectady, NY	
285.	Mary Bush	Monett, MO	
286.	Alice Mar	Vienna, VA	In our area, a local very competitive science and tech high school has kids from 3+ counties, private schools easily have kids from more than 2 counties and even two states. Homeschool teams should be treated the same. The two county rule is outdated and does not reflect the reality of geography of many areas. It also unfairly impacts homeschoolers.
287.	Debbie Lane	Nixa, MO	
288.	Amy Gall	Bath, NH	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
289.	Christine Iannopollo	Fuquay Varina, NC	
290.	Sandra Watford	Odessa, FL	
291.	C Van Landschoot	Broomfield, CO	
292.	Mareka Lodge	Bass Lake, CA	
293.	Paige Dinerman	Harker Heights, TX	
294.	Margaret Cranor	Gunnison, CO	
295.	Britt Fox	Bristol, TN	
296.	Kate W.	Pelham, NH	Please make the rule apply to everyone or (preferably) no one - please don't single out home schoolers unfairly.
297.	Katherine Wick	Williston, ND	There should be a level playing field. No special treatment and no special rules!
298.	Suzanne Nichols	Lake Park, GA	
299.	Rebecca Thelen	Dimondale, MI	
300.	Shannon Coleman	San Rafael, CA	
301.	Kimberly Story	Edwards, IL	
302.	Kimberly Ray	Columbus, OH	
303.	Kellee Malone	Naperville, IL	With so few students in many areas the policy as it is effectively stops many homeschoolers from participating at all. It is sad that you want to eliminate the opportunity to so many kids.
304.	Danielle Anderson	Naperville, IL	
305.	Leona Russ	Joliet, IL	
306.	Sonia Harmon	NAPERVILLE, IL	
307.	Sarah Pepe	Peyton, CO	
308.	Stefanie Synal	Bolingbrook, IL	
309.	Lynne Johnson	Naperville, IL	
310.	Rachel Adamson	Naperville, IL	Please treat homeschoolers the same as other participants. Thank you.
311.	Betts Matthew	AURORA, IL	
312.	Stacy Knapp	Naperville, IL	
313.	Allison Clemons	Bellevue, WA	
314.	Holly Ramsey	Naperville, IL	We presented this idea to the IL Science Olympiad three years ago and explained the need to change the national rule in order to be fair to all teams.
315.	Jennifer Stephens	Hickory, NC	Homeschoolers number far fewer than public/private schoolers in all states. To limit the teams to the surrounding counties only results in homeschoolers being <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
315.	Jennifer Stephens	Hickory, NC	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> unable to participate because they cannot field a complete team.
316.	Trenna Boley	Camdenton, MO	
317.	Elizabeth Carden	Soddy Daisy, TN	
318.	Heather DeGeorge	Aurora, IL	Illinois Math & Science Academy pulls from every county in the state and several of the private schools we compete against pull from more than 2 contiguous counties. It doesn't seem fair to further penalize homeschoolers for having the same geographic distribution as many teams competing. At IMSA, a parent's financial obligation varies based on finances--but does not exceed \$4,500/year. I feel there is no organization more qualified to build a superteam. The private schools tuition is much higher but often have minimum intelligence/test scores required for admission. None of this exists to enable homeschoolers to "stack the odds" in our favor. Homeschoolers sacrifice one parent's salary (and that has us often living in a scattered geographic disbursement to afford living without the salary) and have to travel to meet with their event teammates. We work very hard to be able to be involved in these activities. Please reconsider the decision with the realities of the situation.
319.	Sarah korbelt	Montgomery, IL	
320.	Tara Bozarth	Bolingbrook, IL	
321.	Julie Zaborac	DeKalb, IL	
322.	Stefany Austin	Naperville, IL	
323.	Rachel Engelhardt	Yorkville, IL	
324.	sara veldman	addison, IL	
325.	Rebecca Howey	Mokena, IL	
326.	Roanna Mikko	House Springs, MO	
327.	Kendra Budill	Aurora, IL	
328.	Ashley Paul	Old Fort, NC	
329.	Vicky Kaseorg	Charlotte, NC	We had a very strong team, when my kids were younger, but this policy makes it almost impossible for areas with few homeschoolers to gather a team. It is an unfair disadvantage, and hurts SO since homeschoolers tend to be exceptional students.
330.	Brenda Guo	Aurora, IL	
331.	Marilee Price	Aurora, IL	
332.	Mike DeGeorge	naperville, IL	
333.	Claire Cohen	Fayetteville, GA	
334.	Laura Mackley	Yorkville, IL	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
335.	joanne burke	somonauk, IL	
336.	Nina Sheehan	Naperville, IL	
337.	Angela Foltz	Palmyra, PA	
338.	Katie Stone	Albuquerque, NM	
339.	Julie Varvaro	Wheaton, IL	
340.	Charlene Doland	Naperville, IL	Homeschools merit the same treatment as other schools, both public and private. Please treat us fairly!
341.	Lynnette Walko	Woodridge, IL	
342.	Amy price	Windermere, FL	
343.	Steve Dunne	Meridian, ID	
344.	Kathie Null	Lawrenceville, PA	
345.	Julie Dixon	Madison, AL	
346.	Christine Digweed	Plainfield, IL	
347.	Dana Gingrich	Plain City, OH	
348.	Stephanie Motenko	Aurora, IL	
349.	Donald Clark	Arlington, TX	
350.	Jen Shelan	Downers Grove, IL	
351.	Sarah Mastny	Aurora, IL	
352.	Ruth Lestina	Wexford, PA	
353.	Michelle Walach	Montgomery, IL	
354.	Darla Sautter	My Town, WA	
355.	Sunni Wheeler	North Aurora, IL	
356.	Marcella Morgan	Elgin, IL	
357.	Lisa Ulrich	Glencoe, MN	
358.	Karen Hess	Aurora, IL	
359.	Kathryn Gans	Batavia, IL	
360.	Heather Donahue	Naperville, IL	
361.	Gina Nicolosi	Sycamore, IL	
362.	Amy Gilroy	Valencia, CA	
363.	Karen Weaver	Erie, PA	Just looking to be treated fairly.
364.	Jayne Montanus	Yorkville, IL	
365.	Heather Risdon	South Elgin, IL	If you are going to allow IMSA to compete, then you should be consistent and allow homeschoolers. It's hard enough to find a group of us who are roughly the same age and want to join the same club. Those of us in city suburbs can easily be located in places where 3-4 counties meet up.
366.	Alexis Ibarra	Aurora, IL	
367.	Lindsey Shields	Farmington, MI	



	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
368.	Amy Fox	Sahuarita, AZ	
369.	Sara Elliott	Aurora, IL	
370.	Rachel Prescott	Naperville, IL	
371.	Debra Johnson	Sheridan, IL	If other teams are not limited in this manner, then homeschool teams should not be either. This rule puts homeschool teams at a disadvantage and limits participation of students who might otherwise be eager to take advantage of this learning opportunity.
372.	Barbara Watson	Fayetteville, NC	
373.	Sara May	Geneva, IL	
374.	Donald Walko	Woodridge, IL	It seems to go against the spirit of Science Olympiad to have a rule that places one category of students at a disadvantage. I believe SO can do better.
375.	Heidi Johanik	Aurora, IL	
376.	Yvonne Washington	Aurora, IL	
377.	Annette Johnson	DeKalb, IL	
378.	Mindy Popp	Wheaton, IL	
379.	Trish Megchelsen	north aurora, IL	
380.	Tara Clark	Riverside, IL	My sons competed on a private school team with students from many counties. It was a great experience that I wouldn't want to deny homeschoolers.
381.	kristen goin	Warrenville, IL	
382.	Diana moore	Sugar Grove, IL	
383.	Jeremy Wingard	Carol Stream, IL	
384.	Rowan Macwan	Naperville, IL	
385.	Hillary Embry	Spring, TX	
386.	Jackie Olenick	columbus, OH	
387.	Diane Walser	Lake Stevens, WA	
388.	Kristin White	Terre Haute, IN	It does not seem fair that other schools do not need to abide by this rule but home schoolers are expected to. This puts them at a significant disadvantage.
389.	Tracy Humphrey	Lombard, IL	
390.	Tili Jubilee	Tacoma, WA	
391.	Maria Bisabarras	East Troy, WI	Homeschoolers should be treated as other schools in regards of their recruiting since they compete at the same level even when homeschoolers have less students than any other schools at the competitions. It should be the opposite way, homeschoolers should have more advantages since they are less. Thank you for taking into consideration our comments. We homeschool parents want the best education for our children.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
392.	Shannan Gaston	Brentwood, CA	
393.	Ian Chai	Puchong, Malaysia	Let's have a level playing field.
394.	Laureen Anderson	Taylorsville, NC	
395.	J. P. Morgan	Schiller Park, IL	It is sad that this is something that needs to be petitioned for. When does common sense prevail? Relative to the resources of private and magnet schools, etc., I find it hard to believe that home school families are RECRUITING ringers for academic competitions. Is the educational establishment so afraid of what the non-funded home school families will show us when it comes to what effective education looks like? Embrace the competition, don't fear it and maybe we will all learn something far more valuable.
396.	Catherine Christian	Elk Grove, CA	
397.	Wendy Baker	Ballwin, MO	
398.	Michael O'Connor	Cambridge, MD	Home schoolers deserve the same opportunities as others
399.	Jen Dominguez	Wheaton, IL	
400.	Leanne Lamb	Indianapolis, IN	
401.	Debi Estopellan	Aurora, IL	
402.	Barbara Alleman	Warrenville, IL	
403.	Melissa Jarotkiewicz	Mt Pleasant, SC	
404.	karen reilly	swan lake, NY	
405.	Anne gaponenko	naperville, IL	
406.	Dawn Susin-Konters	Downers Grove, IL	
407.	Theresa Welsh	Aurora, IL	
408.	Maria dels Àngels Beltran	Palau-solità i Plegamans, Spain	
409.	Sarah Gieser	West Chicago, IL	
410.	Amy Samuelson	Wheaton, IL	
411.	Rita Johnson	Bolingbrook, IL	
412.	Rebecca James	Harrah, OK	
413.	Rebecca Mundell	Belvidere, IL	
414.	Jennifer Martin	Round Lake Beach, IL	
415.	Renee Pollino	West Chicago, IL	Let's create a competitive science environment that doesn't discriminate.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
416.	Wendy Montalbano	Naperville, IL	<p>In the state of Illinois a home school is legally considered a "Private School" and should be treated as such.</p> <p>1. 105 ILCS § 5/26-1. If a child is "attending a private or a parochial school where children are taught the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in public schools, and where the instruction of the child in the branches of education is in the English language" the child shall not be required to attend public school and the child is in compliance with Illinois compulsory attendance law. Home schools that meet these two requirements are considered legal private schools. Parents must "in good faith" provide an "adequate course of instruction" in the prescribed branches of learning according to People v. Levisen.</p> <p>2. People v. Levisen, 404 Ill. 574, 90 N.E.2d 213 (1950) is a landmark case which held that a home school is a private school. A private school is "a place where instruction is imparted to the young ... the number of persons being taught does not determine whether a place is a school." 404 Ill. at 576, 90 N.E.2d at 215. The Illinois Supreme Court emphasized the right of parents to control their children's education: "Compulsory education laws are enacted to enforce the natural obligations of parents to provide an education for their young, an obligation which corresponds to the parents' right of control over the child. (Meyer v. Nebraska, 262 U.S. 390, 400.) The object is that all shall be educated not that they shall be educated in any particular manner or place." Levisen, 404 Ill. at 577, 90 N.E.2d at 215.</p>
417.	Ben Merrill	Wheaton, IL	
418.	keslie slifka	Aurora, IL	
419.	Ansandra Woodman	Old Station, CA	
420.	Shari Dobiliauskas	Aurora, IL	
421.	Tracy Moretti	Naperville, IL	
422.	Heather Irving	Morrisville, NC	
423.	Mary Vilim	Sugar Grove, IL	Discriminatory toward homeschoolers. If you think the rule is good, apply it across the board to all schools.
424.	Sam Walko	Woodridge, IL	As a competitor on the first homeschool team to reach State level in Illinois, I agree very much.
425.	Silvio De Luca	Crema, Italy	
426.	Sara Marcela Morgan	Schiller Park, IL	Very unfair that the rules are not the same for ALL the teams.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
427.	Natasha Vermilyea	Rochester, MN	
428.	Mildred Giegler	Blissfield, MI	
429.	Trina Patton	Wheaton, IL	
430.	Angela Ortiz	aurora, IL	
431.	Nicole Denson	Aurora, IL	
432.	Dawn Cummins	Aurora, IL	
433.	Maribeth Uhlenhopp	Yorkville, IL	
434.	Linda Walkup	Albuquerque, NM	Our team has suffered from this newer rule, as there are several counties that border our main one, but now we have to choose which second one people can come from, and we have had to turn away a number of students who would have loved to be a part. Point though: Science Olympiad is not an international competition really. Only Japan participates as a guest. No one is recruiting from more than one continent unless they are currently residing in that state. I can believe that some private schools do have students across state lines, however. This rule needs to be changed.
435.	Anita Bruce	Albuquerque, NM	
436.	Jessica Kimble	Frederick, MD	
437.	Benjamin Chesebrough	Rio Rancho, NM	
438.	Stacy Weaver	Gastonia, NC	
439.	Carol Muzzy	West Chicago, IL	
440.	Dawn Sullivan	Ogema, MN	Here in Minnesota, many of our homeschool families are from rural communities. For our children, taking part in something like the Science Olympiad generally means lots of travel, time and money. Students in public and/or private schools don't have the same challenges our homeschool students do in location and costs. Please reconsider the rule limiting the geographic locations for homeschool students!
441.	Diana Turner	Albuquerque, NM	There are so few teams for homeschoolers. We are the only one that I know of in our state. It is difficult for homeschoolers to get a team together and this rule makes it even harder- not only for the team but also for those who want to join but can't because of the limitations on our team of having two contiguous counties. Please change this discriminatory rule!
442.	Julia Choate	Aurora, IL	
443.	Kelly Kasper	Western Springs, IL	
444.	Beth Flumignan	Onsted, MI	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
445.	Joyce McPherson	Chattanooga, TN	
446.	Schea Freimanis	Albuquerque, NM	Please reconsider your position on geographic boundaries for home school teams, so that more kids can have to opportunity to participate and so that home schoolers have the same governing rules as private and public schools. Thank you.
447.	Robyn Fendall	Waitakere, AUCKLAND, New Zealand	
448.	Cristi Walters	Friendswood, TX	
449.	Ellen Yamamoto	West Chicago, IL	Homeschoolers need opportunities. This is a discriminatory policy, when gifted schools or private schools draw from huge areas. Please treat homeschoolers the same and change this restriction on competition.
450.	Jeff Walko	Woodridge, IL	
451.	paulette sherman	plano, IL	
452.	Darla Wirth	Albuquerque, NM	
453.	Michelle Gendron	Albuquerque, NM	
454.	Mary Juber	Ledyard, CT	
455.	Donna Krueger	Hanscom AFB, MA	
456.	Cassie Gavin	Sandwich, IL	
457.	elfi metz	NES, Germany	
458.	Brigitte Todd	Holly, MI	
459.	Catherine Comis	Commerce Township, MI	
460.	Tracey Bujaki	Fenton, MI	
461.	Antoinette Williams	Mount Morris, MI	
462.	Tina Coyle	Lawrenceville, GA	This is a discriminatory policy, when gifted schools or private schools draw from huge areas. Please treat homeschoolers the same and change this restriction on competition.
463.	Connie Lacey	Clarkston, MI	
464.	Melanie Hartman	Rochester Hills, MI	
465.	Emily Redman	Saint Clair Shores, MI	We desire fair and comparable treatment; not preferential treatment. Science Olympiad should be available to all students.
466.	Cherub Beard	Davisburg, MI	Homeschoolers want equal treatment. They should not be penalized because they chose to homeschool. Please consider changing the rules to allow them to compete. It will only improve the participation in the Science Olympiad.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
467.	Amanda McMahon-Patankar	Plymouth, MI	
468.	Ginise Price	Washington, MI	
469.	Samantha Jacokes	Commerce, MI	Homeschoolers are their own "student body" and should be able to pull from that student body to gain team members.
470.	Roacoe Jordan	Brantford, Canada	
471.	Cassie Breeding	Shelby Townsh, MI	I know my kids would like to participate in the future, and I live in an area where the borders of four counties come together. This seems like an undue burden on homeschoolers of which there is already a small pool of students in comparison to schools.
472.	Mary Weaer	Royal Oak, MI	
473.	Vidhya Natarajan	Novi, MI	
474.	Kathryn Irby	GULFPORT, MS	
475.	Tracie Kelly	Lake Orion, MI	My son participated when he was in school and was in the top 4 both years. I want this opportunity for him as a homeschooler. We want to be able to pull a team together!
476.	Gus Corry	Hixson, TN	This rule is unnecessary, and unfair to the homeschoolers.
477.	Gregory Dudley	Southfield, MI	
478.	cheryl wilgen	grayslake, IL	
479.	Elizabeth Bergeron	Shorewood, IL	
480.	M Heiss	Albuquerque, NM	
481.	Pauline Keithley	Rio Rancho, NM	
482.	Cecilia Gutierrez	Albuquerque, NM	We have to struggle to find 15 members every year. This year we had to turn away a family of 3 children who wanted to compete because we had already allowed members of a different county to join the team. So they competed at regionals with a three person team on a few events. Because there a several homeschooling families in counties both east and west of Albuquerque we have to make the decision which county to take every year and exclude kids we need for our team every year. [We don't have enough kids to form two separate homeschool teams and barely enough to form one team, but always leave one county out.]
483.	James Gutierrez	Albuquerque, NM	
484.	Kimberly Ulibarri	Albuquerque, NM	
485.	Tracy Draus	Albuquerque, NM	
486.	Norvalu Aragon	Albuquerque, NM	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
487.	Peter Chew	albuquerque, NM	This petition does not seek preferential treatment for homeschoolers - it just seeks to level the playing field for homeschoolers with public and private schools!
488.	Janet Andraka	Albuquerque, NM	There are many home school families that are unable to compete at all, or only at the regional level because they don't have enough students in two contiguous counties to hope to place and move on to State.
489.	Jennifer Nolen	Hinesville, GA	Many major cities fall into more than one county and those outlying areas are different as well. It is not uncommon for a private school to have students from more than 2 counties. Maybe the rule should be within a certain radius instead?
490.	Paulinha Russell	JACKSONVILLE, TX	
491.	Jennifer Ratliff	Denver, KY	
492.	Christina Ahern	Midway, GA	
493.	Carol Plummer	Rio Rancho, NM	
494.	kristin andraka	Albuquerque, NM	
495.	Grace Corry	Hixson, TN	
496.	Elise Eaton	Magnolia, TX	Homeschool teams should be treated in the same way that private and charter schools are treated. Let's focus on the kids and what they gain from participation in this program.
497.	Sarah Dwyer	Katy, TX	
498.	Valerie Levinson	Charlotte, NC	I have been involved in homeschool Science Olympiad teams for 9 years. Over that time I have been involved in 4 different teams, each one negatively affected by the 2 county rule. The only time we were ever able to field a full team was the year before the current rules went into effect. Every year we turn kids away because they miss the geographical boundaries. We struggle every year to have numbers. This year we had 8 middle school students and just 4 high school. It is very discouraging to the team members that they are so limited by their numbers. Thank you for considering this change to the rules.
499.	Robin Hatfield	Katy, TX	
500.	megan Welch	Katy, TX	
501.	Paula Garrett	Friendswood, TX	
502.	Jennifer Leeds	AUSTIN, TX	
503.	Camille North	Austin, TX	If Science Olympiad wants to truly fulfill its mission and make science come alive for all students, homeschool students should be included in that noble goal. The two-county rule prohibits many students from participating in Olympiad in any meaningful way. The mythical "super team" filled with homeschoolers simply doesn't exist. However, there are many super teams already in existence, created by charter and magnet schools.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
504.	Shu-Yi Scott	Austin, TX	
505.	Monica Mueller	Austin, TX	
506.	Laura North	Phoenix, AZ	
507.	Samara keller	austin, TX	
508.	sridevi Autoor	Round Rock, TX	
509.	Jen Philhower	Austin, TX	
510.	Laura Nattinger	Austin, TX	
511.	Valentina MacGregor	Lakeway, TX	
512.	MONROE GONZALEZ	Sealy, TX	As a former science teacher, science fair director, judge and coordinator, I believe the level of science put out by homeschool teams is quiet high. Monroe Gonzalez
513.	Abigail Erlandson	Austin, TX	
514.	Karen White	Georgetown, TX	
515.	Carrie Barker	georgetown, TX	
516.	Floyd M. Farley	Round Rock, TX	
517.	Shannon Tefft-Janes	Cedar Park, TX	All we are asking is to have the rules applied equally. Private schools and charter schools can draw students from multiple counties (or even states or countries for that matter). This rule adversely impacts students in rural regions, as the two county rule can make it difficult to find enough students to assemble a team.
518.	Howard Clark	Austin, TX	
519.	Amanda Steele	Austin, TX	
520.	Christine Terrell	Austin, TX	
521.	Christy Schooler	Austin, TX	This is an unfair policy that singles out homeschoolers. Magnet schools, private schools and boarding schools who compete at your top levels do not have to abide by the same rules and this inconsistency should not be tolerated. Please apply consistent rulings across the board.
522.	Stacey Suess	Austin, TX	
523.	Danielle Gooch	cedar park, TX	
524.	Heather Syrett	Austin, TX	Please be fair to homeschoolers by lifting the restriction.
525.	Traci Shannon	Houston, TX	
526.	Samantha Gray	Bluff City, TN	
527.	Cheryl Navarrete	Austin, TX	
528.	Melissa Zentgraf	Austin, TX	
529.	Carol Farley	Round Rock, TX	
530.	Kaiwen Lin-Bethke	Austin, TX	



	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
531.	Lisa Parker	Cedar Park, TX	In a metropolitan area such as ours, one city can be divided into two counties alone - and then what about the suburb towns that may be in yet another county? Two contiguous counties is an arbitrary rule. We homeschoolers gather regularly for activities across at least 4-5 counties. Private schools do not have this requirement to participate. We shouldn't either. Thank you for your time and consideration.
532.	Gentry Clark	Austin, TX	
533.	Lori Balkum	Round Rock, TX	My daughter was involved with a homeschool science team for many years. having a geographical restriction on homeschool teams makes no sense. Our city area is made up of 4+ counties, and those kids can all participate on the same private school science team? Homeschools are LEGALLY private schools in Texas. Don't treat us differently. Homeschoolers aren't trying to game the system. We just want our kids to learn, be able to compete like other students, and love science!!!
534.	Frances ELLINGTON	Austin, TX	
535.	David Dale	georgetown, TX	
536.	Leanne paulin	Cedar Park, TX	
537.	Cortney Swartzendruber	Austin, TX	
538.	Kristina Lewis	Georgetown, TX	
539.	Adrienne Cantor	Cedar park, TX	
540.	Heather Rizzo	austin, TX	
541.	Rosemarie Quick	Round Rock, TX	
542.	Stephanie Surles	Cedar Park, TX	Please consider making the playing field level for homeschooled students. The two contiguous county rule is limiting the ability of these, and only these, students from participating in Science Olympiad. All students should have the opportunity to participate in this truly educational event. Thank you.
543.	Richard Dietz	Cedar Park, TX	We are not looking for special treatment, just want to have the same level playing field and rules that apply to other schools. Thanks!
544.	Kathryn Lewis-Peacock	Austin, TX	Homeschoolers just want equal access to competitions and the current rules disadvantage homeschool groups, especially in urban multi-county areas and rural low density areas. It is not about bringing together the kids most likely to win, it is about being able to form natural groups out of already existing coops and other communities without worrying about small geographic differences.
545.	Nita davidson	Georgetown, TX	

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
546.	Emily Tock	Austin, TX	
547.	Kristen Lambright	Cedar Park, TX	
548.	Carol Emmerich	Austin, TX	
549.	Laura Stager	Austin, TX	This is a great program that my son has participated in for several years. Especially in area like Austin where the metro area consists of several counties this policy makes no sense. Please stop discriminating against homeschoolers.
550.	Shannon Rizzo	Austin, TX	End this discriminatory practice and hold all schools to the same qualification requirements.
551.	luke rizzo	austin, TX	
552.	Sebastian Lambright	Round Rock, TX	
553.	Carmen McFarlin	Austin, TX	Please change the ruling to fairly reflect on all students/teams. Creating separate rules for homeschooling teams is arbitrary and discriminatory.
554.	Turisa Rucker	Austin, TX	
555.	Carla Scruggs	Round Rock, TX	
556.	Sara Cunningham	San Marcos, TX	
557.	Shu-ling Chow	Austin, TX	
558.	Tammi Cornett	Kyle, TX	
559.	Ryan Farley	Round rock, TX	Some very close friends were forced to split from my team because of these rules. It would be wonderful if we didn't have to worry about where someone is from when signing them on anymore.
560.	Tatiana Gilliam	Austin, TX	
561.	Cara Shannon Clark	Wimberley, TX	
562.	Isabella Rizzo	Austin, TX	In the three years that I've been competing, Science Olympiad has had a remarkable impact on my life; it cultivated in me a deep curiosity in science, and ultimately inspired me to pursue a STEM career. Last year, my family moved a mile outside my team's county line, and I not only was forced to leave the social group I had found in my team, but there was the possibility of not having enough homeschoolers in our new county line to form a new team and continue to compete in Science Olympiad. We were lucky that there are just enough homeschoolers in our area to continue with Science Olympiad, but our numbers are still so low that it would be impossible for us to become a competitive team. Public and private school teams don't have to face this issue, and homeschool teams should not have to, either. The opportunity to participate in this educational event should be extended to all students equally.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Comments</b>
563.	Tiffany Al-Anzi	San Marcos, TX	Homeschooling students are a vibrant demographic. Encouraging their participation by losing barriers to their participation assists our younger generations in entering the STEM fields. Thank you.
564.	Celeste Wise	Austin, TX	
565.	Shaye Shannon-Means	Wimberley, TX	
566.	Amy Rose	Austin, TX	
567.	Bonnie Miller	Kyle, TX	
568.	Darren Means	Wimberley, TX	
569.	Angela McGinn	Austin, TX	
570.	Seth Roland	Austin, TX	
571.	Randall Terrell	Austin, TX	We think the current policy creates barriers to homeschool participation in science olympiad that are not justified--particularly when compared to the relative lax restrictions on private schools.
572.	Mary Ahern	Ooltewah, TN	In some of the more rural areas, like the area we are in, it is difficult to get enough homeschooling kids of the right ages together to have a team. Without allowing a wider geographical area in which to draw from our team's high school kids can't participate. They are not a "super team" just hardworking, motivated kids who have dedicated coaches and supportive parents. Please reconsider this rule.
573.	Gelea Clem	Houston, TX	
574.	Darlene MacAuley	Austin, TX	
575.	Sherry Neuendorff	Austin, TX	
576.	Monk Duro-Landry	Austin, TX	
577.	Scout Gibson	Fulton, MO	
578.	Benjamin Johnson	Buda, TX	Right thing to do.
579.	Fredda Lambright	Grapeland, TX	
580.	Regina Wilshire	Columbia, MO	
581.	Sahara Anderson	San Diego, CA	
582.	Aimee clifford	Austin, TX	
583.	Leslie Pearson	dripping springs, TX	
584.	Cathy Chou	columbia, MO	
585.	C Taylor	austin, TX	
586.	mary somers	pflugerville, TX	
587.	Daniel Chow	Austin, TX	