

State KidWind Finalists Selected for National Contest

March 30, 2019—Students from 6 Kansas teams have been selected to compete at the National KidWind Challenge in Houston, TX in May. 14 teams competed Saturday, March 30 in Topeka, KS in the statewide KidWind Challenge

State Finalists		
9th – 12th division		
1.	AirSharks	Oxford High School
2.	Thunderhawks	Wheatland High School
3.	C8CR9	Sterling High School
4th – 8th division		
1.	AEKG	Beloit Jr. High School
2.	Paola Middle School	Paola Middle School
3	Electric Four	Lebo home school group
Judges Favorite		
	Westside	Paola High School

To secure a spot in the state challenge, students competed in one of four regional events. The top 2 teams in each of 2 age divisions were selected to compete at state. In the state challenge, the top-placing 3 teams in each age division are able to compete in the national event.

Each team brought a homemade wind turbine, which was tested in a 48 inch by 48-inch wind tunnel. The teams were also quizzed on wind energy knowledge and presented their turbines to a panel of judges. Scores were given for each activity, and top scores were determined from the weighted sum of each score.

The judges, which included celebrity judge Lieutenant Governor Lynn Rogers, chose a “judges favorite,” in addition to the top scoring teams. The judges choose a favorite based on the team’s presentation of their turbine, which includes knowledge and reasoning for choosing a particular turbine structure and evidence of learning.

The 14 teams competing at the state challenge represented Paola Middle and High schools, Dighton Elementary School, Beloit Jr. and Sr. High Schools, Hope Street Academy, Lebo Home School Co-op, Oxford High School, Wheatland High School, USD 308 Gifted, Sterling High School, Manhattan CHIEF Homeschool, Trego County Schools, and the Kansas Wetlands Education Center.

Winning teams have the opportunity to improve their design before competing at the National Challenge.