



Bridge Designer 2026

POWERED BY ENGINEERING ENCOUNTERS



GETTING STARTED GUIDE

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration & Qualifying Round Begins:	October 31, 2025
Last Day to Request Classroom Assistance:	February 13, 2026
Qualifying Round Ends:	February 27, 2026 (11:59 PM EST)
Email Notification to Finalists:	March 3, 2026
Deadline to RSVP to Finals:	March 10, 2026
Finals Event Weekend:	April 17-19, 2026

HOW TO ENTER:

1. **Individual or Team?** Students in grades 6-12 attending a West Virginia public, private, or home school may enter individually or in teams of two.
2. **Registration:** Contestants must register at <https://wvbdb.com/register/>. For teams of two, the team captain should be the ONLY one to register. You must include the contact information for you, your parents, and your teacher (if you are participating as part of a class assignment/project) so we can notify you if you are selected as a finalist.
3. **Install the Software:** Download the Bridge Designer 2026 software from the contest website at <https://wvbdb.com/software/>.
4. **Design a Bridge:** Use the Bridge Designer 2026 software to design a bridge. To be eligible for submission to the contest, the design must pass the simulated load test. The objective is for the design to be as inexpensive as possible. Once the design is complete, save it as a "bridge design file" with the extension ".bdc".
5. **Submit a Design:** Log in to the WVBDB website (<https://wvbdb.com/login/>) and upload the bridge design file to officially enter. Once upload is complete and the file is received, the file will be checked to ensure the bridge design passes the load test. If the file passes the load test, the cost of the design then determines the team's contest standing on the leaderboard.
6. **Keep Submitting:** Use the Bridge Designer 2026 software to refine and improve your design to reduce the cost. There is no limit to the number of designs an individual/team may submit. The WVBDB Leaderboard is updated daily based on designs that have been submitted online (<https://wvbdb.com/leaderboard/>).