

RESEARCH ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS

The Establishment of the System for Rewarding Winners of National and International Science Olympiads and Their Teachers in New Uzbekistan, and Achieved Results

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ABSTRACT

The system for rewarding students who win national and international science Olympiads and their teachers aims to enhance the level of science and education, assist in the intellectual development of youth, and present their achievements to the wider public. This process not only focuses on recognizing individual achievements but also serves the broader goal of developing the entire education system. The implementation of such a system stimulates students' interest in science, increases intellectual activity, and encourages their innovative and creative thinking.

Moreover, students and their teachers who succeed in international science Olympiads significantly contribute to improving the country's image in science and education.

This article discusses the recent focus on developing the education system in our country, particularly the improvement of the mechanism for properly rewarding the winners of national and international science Olympiads and their teachers, as well as the achieved results.

Keywords: Main Olympiad, prestigious international Olympiads, online Olympiads, material incentives.

INTRODUCTION

In the new phase of Uzbekistan's development, fundamental reforms have been implemented in all sectors, including science and education. To advance the education system to a new level and achieve global recognition, the development of a mechanism to appropriately reward students who win national and international science Olympiads, as well as their teachers, has been considered one of the key factors in creating the Third Renaissance in New Uzbekistan.

During this period, a series of important decisions were made by our esteemed President and the Cabinet of Ministers to support the country's promising youth, realize their potential, increase their motivation to master science, and raise a worthy generation to carry forward the legacy of our ancestors who have spread the name of our

homeland globally.

Among these decisions were the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on May 3, 2019, "Measures for Establishing a Continuous System for Identifying Talented Youth and Training Highly Qualified Personnel" (PQ-4306), the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 9, 2021, "Improving the System of Conducting Science Olympiads Among Talented Students and Implementing a System for Identifying the Best School for Teaching Foreign Languages" (562), and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on September 30, 2024, "Further Improving the System for Working with Talented Youth" (PQ-346). These decrees have led to the creation of a mechanism for appropriately rewarding talented students and dedicated teachers who have achieved significant

results in their fields.

The adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on May 3, 2019, "Measures for Establishing a Continuous System for Identifying Talented Youth and Training Highly Qualified Personnel" (PQ-4306), brought the reforms in this area to a new level. According to this decree, the Department for Working with Talented Students in Science Olympiads was established within the Ministry of Public Education. In accordance with Annex 1 of the decree, the following prestigious international Olympiads were approved, whose winners are exempt from the entrance exam for admission to state higher education institutions:

1. International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)
2. International Physics Olympiad (IPhO)
3. International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO)
4. International Biology Olympiad (IBO)
5. International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI)

Moreover, starting from the 2019/2020 academic year, the winners of the aforementioned international Olympiads and their teachers were to be awarded one-time monetary prizes in the following amounts based on the basic calculation unit:

- 1st place (gold medal): 500 for the winner, 450 for the teacher
- 2nd place (silver medal): 300 for the winner, 250 for the teacher
- 3rd place (bronze medal): 200 for the winner, 150 for the teacher

Additionally, based on the decree, teachers and directors of educational institutions who prepared the winners of these prestigious international science Olympiads were to receive a 200%, 175%, and 150% salary increase for the next academic year according to the gold, silver, and bronze medals, respectively. Furthermore, teachers who are employed in educational institutions and who are winners of international Olympiads will receive a 150% salary increase every month.

On September 9, 2021, in accordance with the

implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 3, 2019, PQ-4306, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the decree "On Improving the System of Organizing Science Olympiads for Talented Students and Introducing the Best School for Foreign Language Teaching" under decision No. 562.

According to Annex 1 of this decree, the rules for organizing and conducting science Olympiads among general secondary education institutions, academic lyceums, and vocational schools, as well as the process of selecting participants for international Olympiads and rewarding the winners, were established. The regulations stipulate the following categories of Olympiads for students:

1. Main Olympiad - an annual, systematic Olympiad organized among schools by the Ministry of Preschool and School Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, focusing on general educational subjects.
2. Additional Republic Olympiads - Olympiads organized at the initiative of local government authorities, ministries, departments, and state and non-state educational organizations, in addition to the main Olympiads (for example, Olympiads organized by regional governors).
3. Online Olympiad - Olympiads conducted exclusively through information technology (computer, tablet, phone, etc.) for testing students' knowledge and preparing them for the main Olympiads.
4. Prestigious International Olympiads - Olympiads listed in the Decree of the President of Uzbekistan dated May 3, 2019, PQ-4306.
5. Regional International Olympiads - Olympiads that are not included in the prestigious international Olympiads list but are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, where winners can participate in international Olympiads with status equivalent to that of the winners of the main national Olympiad.

The main Olympiad involves students of grades 9 to 11 from schools, academic lyceums, and vocational schools and is conducted in four stages:

1. The first stage — within schools, academic lyceums, and vocational schools.
2. The second stage — at the district (city) level.
3. The third stage — at the level of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and the city of Tashkent.
4. The fourth stage — at the national level, involving students from grade 11 of general education schools, as well as second-year students from academic lyceums and vocational schools.

According to the regulations, the winners at the third (regional) stage of the main Olympiad will receive the following one-time monetary rewards:

- 1st place — 6 times the base calculation unit.
- 2nd place — 4 times the base calculation unit.
- 3rd place — 3 times the base calculation unit.

In the final (republican) stage of the main Olympiad, the winners will be awarded a one-time cash prize in the following amounts:

- 1st place — 12 times the base calculation amount;
- 2nd place — 8 times the base calculation amount;
- 3rd place — 6 times the base calculation amount.

The additional measures for rewarding the winners of the main science Olympiads and their teachers were approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated May 3, 2019, PQ-4306. According to this decree, starting from the 2019/2020 academic year, participants who occupy the 1st to 3rd places at the national level of the main Olympiads will receive a certificate granting the right to obtain the maximum score in the entrance exams to higher education institutions in their respective specialized subjects. This certificate is valid for three years.

Additionally, according to the decree, teachers of the main Olympiad national winners will be awarded a one-time monetary reward based on the base calculation amount:

- 1st place — 50 times the base calculation amount (as of October 1, 2024, it is 18,750,000 UZS);

- 2nd place — 35 times the base calculation amount (as of October 1, 2024, it is 13,125,000 UZS);

- 3rd place — 30 times the base calculation amount (as of October 1, 2024, it is 11,250,000 UZS).

Furthermore, teachers who are involved in the preparation of international Olympiad winners and continue to work as teachers in schools will receive a 100% salary increase every month.

Annex 1 to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, Decision No. 562, approved the list of "Regional International Science Olympiads," which have been equated to the national level Olympiad.

Since the independence of Uzbekistan, the country has participated in prestigious international science Olympiads for the first time in 1997. That same year, Uzbekistan's representatives won the first medal (bronze) in the biology category.

From 1997 to 2016, Uzbekistan's national team won a total of 53 medals in prestigious international Olympiads, including 2 golds, 11 silvers, and 40 bronzes, in the fields of mathematics (IMO), physics (IPO), chemistry (IChO), biology (IBO), and informatics (IIO).

The decisions regarding the financial support for talented students and their teachers, approved by the aforementioned decree, have quickly yielded results. Before the implementation of the decree (from 1997 to 2019), Uzbekistan's students had won a total of 68 medals in prestigious international Olympiads: 2 golds, 14 silvers, and 52 bronzes. However, thanks to the efforts of the Department for Working with Talented Students in Science Olympiads, established after the above-mentioned decree, Uzbekistan's youth have achieved remarkable success, winning 46 medals in the period from 2020 to 2024, including 7 golds, 15 silvers, and 24 bronzes.

In recent years, reforms aimed at financially supporting talented students and their teachers have continued in Uzbekistan. Specifically, according to the Presidential Decree No. 346, dated September 30, 2024, the following rewards for international (astronomy, geography, economics, and foreign languages) Olympiad winners were announced:

- Gold medalists: 56.25 million UZS and their teachers: 18.75 million UZS;

- Silver medalists: 37.5 million UZS and their teachers: 13.125 million UZS;

- Bronze medalists: 18.75 million UZS and their teachers: 11.25 million UZS.

For regional international Olympiads:

- Gold medalists: 4.5 million UZS and their teachers: 18.75 million UZS;

- Silver medalists: 3.0 million UZS and their teachers: 13.125 million UZS;

- Bronze medalists: 2.25 million UZS and their teachers: 11.25 million UZS.

In addition, winners of international and regional international Olympiads will have the right to gain the maximum score in the entrance exams for higher education institutions in their respective subjects.

Moreover, the qualification category of the teacher who prepared the student for the Olympiad will be upgraded by one level. Additionally, regional international Olympiad winners, similar to the winners of the national level of the main Olympiad, will receive a 100% monthly salary increment if they later work as a teacher in educational institutions and teach in the same field in which they won.

Over the past five years (2020-2024), an analysis of the regions with the most winners in prestigious international Olympiads (as per the President's Decree No. PQ-4306, dated May 3, 2019, which lists the winners who are admitted to state higher educational institutions without a test and additional exams) reveals that 28 winners came from Tashkent city, 9 from Bukhara region, 3 from Navoi, 2 from Kashkadarya, 2 from Jizzakh region, and one each from Andijan and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Interestingly, Samarkand region, which has the highest number of general education institutions (1,353) in the country, did not have a single winner in the prestigious international Olympiads in the last 5 years.

Looking at the year-by-year analysis of winners, we can see that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Uzbekistan's team successfully participated in the 2020 prestigious International Chemistry and Biology

Olympiads held remotely. In particular, on July 25, 2020, at the 52nd International Chemistry Olympiad, Uzbekistan's team, consisting of four students, won 2 silver

On August 24, 2020, at the 31st International Biology Olympiad, four Uzbek students won 1 gold and 2 silver medals.

On August 27, 2020, at a ceremony held by the Ministry of Public Education at the Youth Press Club, the winners of the international science Olympiads were awarded one-time cash prizes. These students, who had earned a total of 6 medals (1 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze) in the prestigious international Chemistry and Biology Olympiads, were awarded a total of 423,700,000 UZS, while their teachers received a total of 356,800,000 UZS in one-time cash prizes.

In 2021, our students achieved significant success in prestigious international science Olympiads. They won 1 gold and 3 bronze medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal in the International Mathematics Olympiad, 2 gold and 1 silver medal in the International Biology Olympiad, and 1 bronze medal in the International Physics Olympiad. As a result, they earned a total of 10 medals (3 gold, 2 silver, and 5 bronze) and were awarded 759,500,000 UZS in cash prizes. Their teachers were awarded a total of 637,000,000 UZS in one-time cash prizes. On August 24, 2020, at the 31st International Biology Olympiad, four Uzbek students won 1 gold and 2 silver medals.

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ANALYSIS OF UZBEKISTAN STUDENTS WHO WON INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIADS IN 2020-2024 AND THE AMOUNT OF INCENTIVES					
T/r	Year of participation	Science	The place he took	Amount allocated to encourage winning students (Soum)	Amount allocated to encourage teachers of the winners (Soum)
1.	2020 Total: 6 medals	Biology	1 gold	423.700.000	356.800.000
		Chemistry	2 silver		
2.	2021: Total 10 medals	Chemistry	2 silver 1 bronze	759.500.000	637.000.000
		Mathematics	1 silver 1 bronze		
		Biology	2 gold and 1 silver		
		Physics	1 bronze		
3.	2022: Total 6 medals	Mathematics	1 bronze	480.000.000	390.000.000
		Biology	1 bronze		
		Chemistry	4 silver		
4.	2023: Total: 13	Physics	1 bronze	1.089.000.000	874.500.000
		Chemistry	2 gold, 1 silver 1 bronze		
		Mathematics	3 bronze		
		Computer Science	2 bronze		
		Biology	3 bronze,		
5.	2024-year	Chemistry	1 gold,	1.087.500.000	881.250.000

			2 silver, 1 bronze		
		Mathematics	2 silver, 3 bronze		
		Physics	1 bronze		
		Computer Science	1 bronze		

In 2022, our students won a total of 6 medals (4 silver and 2 bronze) in prestigious international competitions, including 1 bronze in the International Mathematics Olympiad, 1 bronze in the Biology Olympiad, and 4 silver in the Chemistry Olympiad. They were awarded a total of 480,000,000 UZS, while their teachers received 390,000,000 UZS in one-time cash prizes.

On December 20, 2023, during a videoconference chaired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on improving IT infrastructure and digitalization of sectors, it was announced that the International Informatics Olympiad would be held in our country for the first time in 2026.

In this regard, the relevant authorities were instructed to organize competitions at the "school – district – region – republic" levels and select the top 100 talented students from grades 5-8. Notably, for the first time, an international coach was invited to assist in the preparation of our national team for the International Informatics Olympiad.

To enhance the preparation process and improve the performance of the national team in this prestigious competition, Bartosz Kostka, a gold medalist of the

International Informatics Olympiad and the head coordinator of the Polish Youth Informatics Olympiad, was invited to our country.

These efforts certainly bore fruit. In 2023, our representatives secured 2 bronze medals in Informatics, 1 bronze in Physics, 2 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze in Chemistry, 3 bronze in Mathematics, and 3 bronze in Biology, totaling 13 medals (2 gold, 1 silver, and 10 bronze). These students were awarded a total of 1,089,000,000 UZS, and their teachers received 874,500,000 UZS in one-time cash prizes.

In 2024, the talented students of our country were awarded 11 medals (1 gold, 4 silver, and 6 bronze) in 4 prestigious international Olympiads, receiving 1,087,500,000 UZS in cash, with their teachers receiving 881,250,000 UZS in one-time cash prizes.

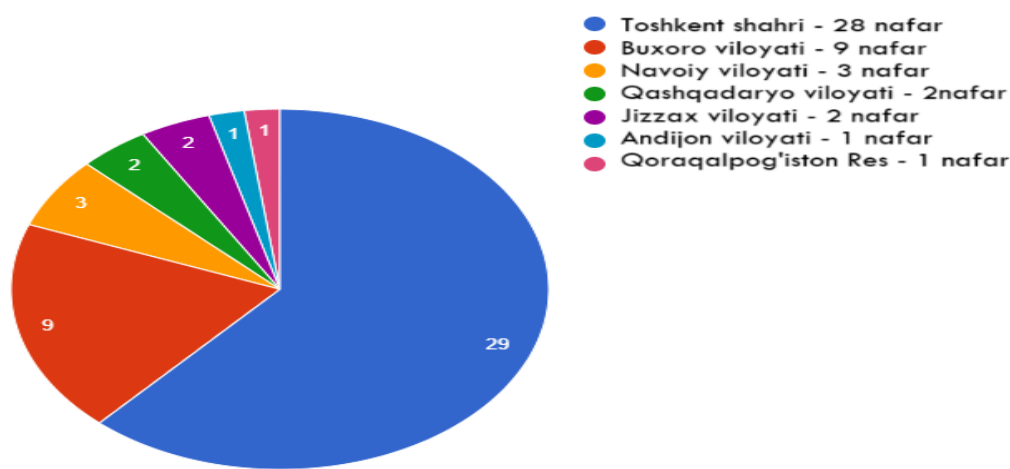
Overall, in the 2023-2024 academic year, school students in Uzbekistan won a total of 128 medals in international science Olympiads. This result is the highest achieved so far. In the past 2023/2024 academic year, Olympiad students secured a total of 65 medals.

№	STATE NAME	TYPE OF MEDAL WON			ALL
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	
1	QOZOG'ISTON	8	70	79	157
2	O'ZBEKISTON	7	18	36	61
3	QIRG'IZISTON	1	8	36	45
4	TURKMANISTON	-	12	27	39
5	TOJIKISTON	-	7	32	39

Importantly, during the 2023-2024 academic year, a total of 9 billion UZS from the state budget was allocated to reward students and their teachers who won prizes in international and regional science Olympiads, as well as winners of the regional and republic stages of the main Olympiads. This amount is nearly 11.5 times higher than the 780 million UZS allocated in 2019.

It is noteworthy that Mohira Boltayeva, a teacher at the

Abu Ali ibn Sino specialized school in Tashkent, prepared students who won 3 medals (1 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze) in the most prestigious international Olympiads in 2024, as well as 5 medals (2 silver and 3 bronze) in regional international Olympiads, for a total of 8 medals. In connection with this, teacher Mohira Boltayeva was awarded a monetary reward of 318,750,000 UZS for achievements in prestigious international Olympiads, and a total amount of 378,750,000 UZS in recognition of her contributions.



Distribution of Students Who Won Prestigious International Science Olympiads by Regions in 2020-2024

In the new phase of Uzbekistan's development, our students have been actively participating in republic and international science Olympiads and securing a number of significant positions. However, there are still several goals to be achieved in this regard.

Firstly, despite the accomplishments, Uzbek students have not yet won a gold medal in the internationally recognized mathematics, physics, and informatics Olympiads listed in the Presidential decree PQ-4306, dated May 3, 2019.

Secondly, in seven regions of our country, including Samarkand, which has the highest number of general education institutions (1353), no student has won in the prestigious international science Olympiads listed in the Presidential decree PQ-4306 in the last five years.

In conclusion, it is important to note that over the past eight years, comprehensive reforms have been implemented to improve the system of rewarding the winners of national and international science Olympiads and their teachers. First of all, legal and regulatory frameworks aimed at material and additional incentives for the winners of national and international science Olympiads and their teachers have been adopted. As a result, the number of achievements by our students in prestigious international science Olympiads has increased, and the regular participation of Samarkand students in the republic stage of the main subject Olympiads has been ensured. However, there are still a number of challenges, such as the low performance of students in specific and natural sciences, and the fact that no students from seven regions of our country have ranked in prestigious international science Olympiads in the last five years, among other issues.

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CONCLUSION

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