bridge the gap

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

STUDENT INNOVATION SHOWCASE

NextGen 26'1

Building a Better Tomorrow

A premier showcase empowering young innovators to build functional, real-world solutions — where implementation, testing, and impact matter more than ideas alone.

EVENT DATE	ORGANIZED BY
August 1, 2026	**Bridge the Gap**

2	4	1
TRACKS	FOCUS AREAS	MISSION

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Inside this Rulebook

01 Event Overview

NextGen 261 is a premier student innovation showcase designed to empower young innovators to develop meaningful solutions to real-world challenges. The event encourages participants to think critically, solve problems creatively, and demonstrate technical excellence through functional projects.

Unlike traditional idea competitions, NextGen 261 places a strong emphasis on implementation, functionality, testing, and real-world applicability. Participants are expected to present solutions that address genuine problems and demonstrate practical value to society.

02 Event Theme

Building a Better Tomorrow

Participants are invited to create innovative solutions that contribute positively to the following focus areas:

Education Technology Enhancing learning experiences and accessibility.	**Sustainability** Solutions for environmental conservation and resource management.
Accessibility Tools and systems designed to support individuals with diverse needs.	**Technology** Leveraging modern technology to solve complex societal issues.

03 Competition Tracks

Participants must choose **one** of the following two tracks for their project.

TRACK A

Future of Education

Projects that transform the educational landscape.

- Educational technology platforms
- Student productivity and time-management tools
- Accessibility solutions for inclusive education
- AI-assisted learning and tutoring systems
- Academic management and administration systems
- Digital learning experiences and interactive revision tools
- Educational games and simulations

> **Examples:** AI Study Assistant, Smart Attendance System, Personalized Learning Platform, Career Guidance Portal.

TRACK B

Engineering for Tomorrow

Hardware, automation, and engineering solutions.

- Robotics and autonomous systems
- Internet of Things (IoT) applications
- Automation and smart device integration
- Sustainability and environmental monitoring solutions
- Assistive technology and mobility devices
- Embedded systems and smart infrastructure
- Intelligent disaster response systems

> **Examples:** Smart Waste Management System, Agricultural Monitoring Device, Assistive Mobility Device, Disaster Response Robot, Smart Home Automation System.

04 Eligibility Criteria

TARGET AUDIENCE **Students in Classes 9–12**	PARTICIPATION MODE **Individual or Team-based**
TEAM SIZE **1 to 3 members per team**	TEAM COMPOSITION **Cross-school teams permitted**

> **Restriction:** Each participant may be part of only one team.

05 Project Requirements

Mandatory Functional Demonstration

Every project must demonstrate working functionality. Projects must:

- Perform the intended task effectively

- Demonstrate core features live
- Be available for live testing by judges
- Include a technical explanation and implementation details

> **Exclusion:** Pure ideas, concepts, posters, presentations, and mockups without functionality will not qualify for evaluation.

Problem-Solving Requirement

Every project must:

- Address a clearly identified problem
- Provide a meaningful and logical solution
- Demonstrate practical usefulness
- Show potential for real-world impact

> **Warning:** Projects created solely for appearance, novelty, or entertainment without solving a meaningful problem may receive severe scoring penalties or immediate rejection.

06 Project Submission Guidelines

Each team must submit the following documentation:

- **Project Title**
  A concise and descriptive name.
- **Team Details**
  Names and class details of all members.
- **Problem Statement**
  A clear definition of the issue being addressed.
- **Proposed Solution**
  An overview of the approach taken.
- **Technologies Used**
  List of software, frameworks, and languages.

- **Hardware Components**
  List of physical components (if applicable).
- **Source Code**
  Available for review upon request.
- **Project Images or Videos**
  Optional supporting media.

07 Project Standards & Integrity

Projects should reflect the core values of NextGen 261. Participants are encouraged to demonstrate:

- Original thinking and technical creativity
- Practical implementation over theoretical concepts
- User-focused design and scalability
- Future potential for growth

> **Note:** Innovation does not necessarily mean complexity. Simple, well-executed solutions to important real-world problems are highly encouraged.

Originality & Authenticity

Participants must submit original work. The following are strictly prohibited:

- Copying projects from online sources
- Submitting purchased projects
- Presenting another person's work as your own
- Reusing competition-winning projects without significant modification

Judges reserve the right to question participants regarding technical implementation. Failure to adequately explain project functionality may result in disqualification.

Functional Project Requirements

NextGen 261 is an innovation showcase, not a model exhibition. The following will **not** be accepted as valid projects:

- Decorative models with no functionality

- Static displays with no engineering implementation
- Cardboard or thermocol models serving only visual purposes
- Projects that cannot demonstrate any meaningful operation

> **Structural Materials:** Cardboard, paper, thermocol, and 3D-printed parts may be used as structural components only when supporting a functional system. Judging focuses on engineering, technology, problem-solving, and implementation — not artistic presentation alone.

08 Hardware Kit Usage Policy

Use of hardware development platforms is permitted, including:

Arduino	Raspberry Pi	ESP32	Micro:bit	Other educational platforms

> **Important:** Simply assembling a kit according to a tutorial is not innovation. Participants must demonstrate customization, modification, or original implementation. The value lies in what participants create using the technology — not in the technology itself.

09 Testing & Verification

All projects may undergo live testing. Judges may request:

▪ Live demonstrations of core features	▪ Feature validation under different conditions
▪ Technical explanations of the architecture	▪ Source code review
▪ Design and logic explanations	▪ Hardware inspection

Projects unable to demonstrate their claimed functionality may receive reduced scores or be disqualified.

10 Evaluation Criteria

Problem Identification & Understanding	15
Innovation & Creativity	20
Technical Implementation	25
Testing & Reliability	20
Real-World Impact & Feasibility	10
Presentation & Communication	10
Total	**100 Marks**

11 Presentation Format

Each team will receive a strict time limit:

4	2	6
MINUTES	**MINUTES**	**MINUTES**
Presentation & live demo	Q&A with judges	Total time

Teams must ensure that demonstrations are prepared and operational before their presentation slot begins.

12 Competition Structure

The competition structure, evaluation flow, and any additional rounds will be announced by the organizing committee on the event day. The organizers reserve the right to modify the competition format if required for fairness, scheduling, or operational reasons.

13 Awards & Recognition

01	**Grand Prize Winner**	Raspberry Pi 5 Kit · Medal · Certificate of Excellence
05	**Top Five Teams**	Medal · Certificate of Excellence
All	**All Participants**	Participation Certificate

14 Code of Conduct

All participants are expected to maintain professional and respectful behavior throughout the event. Participants must:

- Respect fellow competitors
- Respect judges and volunteers
- Follow venue regulations
- Maintain academic integrity

> Any form of misconduct, harassment, cheating, disruption, or misrepresentation may result in immediate disqualification.

15 Final Authority

All judging decisions are final. The organizing committee reserves the right to:

- Verify project authenticity
- Request demonstrations
- Reassess project eligibility
- Disqualify projects violating event policies

Participation in NextGen 261 implies acceptance of all rules and regulations outlined in this document.

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Building a Better Tomorrow

2 Tracks • 4 Focus Areas • 1 Mission

Creating practical solutions. Solving real problems. Shaping the future.