



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Section 99h, For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and
Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competitive Grants

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will once again administer the competitive Section 99h, FIRST Robotics Grant. The purpose of the grant is to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in events hosted by FIRST in Michigan or other competitive robotics programs, including those hosted by the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation. The intent of the grant is to increase the number of pupils demonstrating proficiency in science and mathematics on the state assessments and to increase the number of pupils who are college-and career-ready upon high school graduation. The competitive FIRST Robotics Grants supports the MDE's Top 10 in 10 goals two, three, four, and six through several key activities.

Public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts that enroll full-time students are eligible for funding on behalf of their district's for either FIRST Robotics, REC or other STEMworks certified robotics teams. Three million dollars in funding has been made available from the 2018 State School Aid, P.A. 265 for public schools. An additional \$300,000 of funding has been made available for non-public schools for FIRST Robotics, REC, other STEMworks robotics competitive program, or Science Olympiad programming. Nonpublic schools must be registered with the MDE to be eligible to apply.

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Page 2
August 16, 2018

The grant application will be available through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) on August 20, 2018. Three technical assistance webinars are scheduled:

- August 21, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- August 23, 2018 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- August 23, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (non-public schools only)

Registration is required for the technical assistance webinars. Complete the registration form at: <https://goo.gl/forms/RZ2rW2M5RRsisWnc2>. A confirmation email with connection information will be sent to participants 24 hour prior to the webinar.

For more information regarding the grant program, and to access the Request for Proposal (RFP), please see <http://www.techplan.org/rdi>. If you have any questions please email or call Becky Wartella wartellaR@michigan.gov or 517-241-6966 or Amanda Stoel stoela@michigan.gov or 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance