



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2017

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

FROM: Sheila A. Afes 
Chief Deputy Superintendent

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 be administering the competitive 2017-2018 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. 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 support the MDE's Top 10 in 10 goals two, three, four, and six through several key activities.

Programs eligible to apply for FIRST Robotics Grants include: High School FIRST Robotics Competition, Middle School FIRST Tech Challenge, Elementary FIRST Lego League, and Early Elementary JR FIRST Lego League. All public school districts and public school academies in the State of Michigan are eligible to apply. Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) that enroll full-time students at the ISD are eligible to apply as well. Over two million dollars in funding for this grant program has been made available from the 2017 State School Aid, P.A. 108 for public schools.

This year's FIRST Robotics Grant has been expanded to include an additional \$300,000 for FIRST Robotics or Science Olympiad programming for nonpublic schools. Nonpublic schools must be registered with the MDE in order to be eligible to apply.

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The grant application will be available through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) on September 26, 2017. A technical assistance webinar is scheduled for September 27, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. The webinar URL is <http://remc.adobeconnect.com/first-ta/> and the audio dial-in phone number is 1-888-808-6929, access code 8105360.

For more information regarding the grant program, and to access the Request for Proposal, please see <http://www.techplan.org/rdi>. If you have any questions please email or call Amanda Stoel (stoela@michigan.gov), Department Analyst in the Educational Technology Unit with the Office of P-20 Data and Information Management at (517) 241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance