



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 17, 2016

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

**FROM:** Norma Jean Sass *NJS*  
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

**SUBJECT:** Middle School First Tech Challenge (FTC) and High School First Robotics Competition (FRC) State and World Advancement Awards

Due to tremendous growth of the FIRST Robotics program with an additional 111 teams participating this year, state advancement awards will be available for:

- Middle School FTC State Competitions in the amount of \$100
- Middle School FTC Super-Regional Competitions in the amount of \$500
- High School FRC State Championship in the amount of \$3,000

All FTC and FRC teams that qualify to participate will receive their equal amount of funding for reasonable expenses, as outlined in the 2015-16 Section 99h, FIRST Robotics Grants Request for Proposal (RFP). The 2015-16 Section 99h, FIRST Robotics RFP can be found at [www.techplan.org/rdi](http://www.techplan.org/rdi).

We are extremely pleased with the growth of this program, but understand the concern with the precedent that was set from the past grant program structure, which provided funding for both state and world competitions. We encourage teams to work with FIRST in Michigan to identify additional foundation funding, and identify any additional in-kind contributions that can support your team's budget.

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) document can be found at [www.techplan.org/rdi](http://www.techplan.org/rdi). The document provides funding information, such as the match rate, payment schedule, and allowable expenses for the advancement grant.

If you have additional questions please contact Amanda Stoel, at [StoelA@michigan.gov](mailto:StoelA@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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