



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 9, 2020

**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:** 2019-2020 FIRST (VEX) Robotics Grant Requirement Waiver

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is waiving one of the grant requirements associated with the 2019-20 FIRST (VEX) Robotics Grant due to the release of Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-11](#) issued on March 17, 2020. This order led to the suspension of the current FIRST Robotics seasons, the cancellation of the 2020 world championship events, and the suspension of Robotics Education Competition (REC) Foundation events.

Based on the suspensions and cancellation, MDE is waiving the **2019-2020 FIRST (VEX) Robotics Grant Requirement**.

**2019-2020 FIRST (VEX) Robotics Grant Requirement**

*"All public and non-public teams are required to participate in the following number of robotics competitions in Michigan during the current season:*

- *Two district competitions for all high school robotics competition teams*
- *One qualifying event for all middle school teams and all late elementary teams*
- *One expo for all early elementary teams"*

For additional questions, please contact Amanda Stoel at [stoela@michigan.gov](mailto:stoela@michigan.gov) or Ashley Arras at [arrasa@michigan.gov](mailto:arrasa@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde) • 833-633-5788