



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 15, 2016

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

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent *V. Keesler*  
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 be administering the competitive 2016-2017 Section 99h, FIRST Robotics Grant. The 2016-17 FIRST Robotics Grant has been expanded to include robotics programming for pupils in grades K-12. 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. Over two million dollars in funding for this grant program has been made available from the 2016 State School Aid, P.A. 249. 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. State law prevents the use of State Aid funds for non-public school participation.

The grant application will be available through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) on September 26. A technical assistance webinar is scheduled for September 20, 2016, at 3:00 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, Department Analyst in the Educational Technology Unit with the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation at [stoela@michigan.gov](mailto:stoela@michigan.gov) or 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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