



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 17, 2019

**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 (VEX) Competitive Grants

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will again administer the competitive Section 99h, FIRST Robotics (VEX) Grant. The purpose of the grant is to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in events hosted by FIRST Robotics in Michigan or those hosted by the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation, known as VEX. The intent of the grant is to increase the number of students demonstrating proficiency in science and mathematics on the state assessments and to increase the number of students who are college- and career-ready upon high school graduation.

Public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts that enroll full-time students are eligible for funding on behalf of their districts for either FIRST Robotics or VEX. Over \$4 million in funding has been made available from the 2019 State School Aid, P.A. 58.

The grant application will be available through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) on October 23, 2019. Two one-hour technical assistance webinars are scheduled for October 23 and 24 at 3 p.m. Join the webinars at: <https://zoom.us/j/435229476?pwd=RHcrSlhrZUxqRW1ZZkg5Zm1JaHYwdz09>, enter the meeting ID: 435 229 476 and passcode: 881933.

For more information regarding the grant program visit: <http://www.techplan.org/rdi>. If you have questions contact Amanda Stoel, [stoela@michigan.gov](mailto:stoela@michigan.gov); 517-241-3629.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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