



## Section 99h Robotics Competition Grant

FY26 Request for Proposal (RFP) General Instructions  
Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology  
Michigan Department of Education

### Introduction

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is excited to announce the FY26<sup>1</sup> Robotics Competition Grant for Michigan's school districts and nonpublic schools. This program serves as an effort to increase educational opportunities for students by fostering engagement in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), aligning with [Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan](#). An eligible school district or nonpublic school who is approved for funding shall use the provided funds to participate in a robotics competition hosted by an approved 99h program provider.

### Grant Overview

Pursuant to Section 99h of the State School Aid Act, [MCL 388.1699h](#), an amount of \$5,000,000 is allocated to intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), and an amount of \$600,000 is allocated to registered nonpublic schools for the Robotics Competition Grant.

A school district or nonpublic school receiving funding under this section shall only use provided funds for coaching stipends, expenses associated with preparation for and attendance at robotics events and competitions, and awards to teams that advance to the next levels of competition. Nonpublic schools may use funds for either robotics or Science Olympiad programs.

---

<sup>1</sup> FY26 (Fiscal Year 2026) refers to the State of Michigan's fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

The funds allocated under this section are intended to support programs that increase the number of pre-K through 12 students demonstrating proficiency in STEM fields on state assessments and to increase the number of students who are college- and career-ready upon high school graduation.

## Eligible Applicants

- Intermediate School Districts (ISDs)
- Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
- Public School Academies (PSAs)
- Registered Nonpublic Schools (Nonpubs)

## FY26 Approved Program Providers

- [EduEverything](#)
- [FIRST in Michigan](#)
- [MATE](#)
- [Quarkmine](#)
- [Robofest \(Lawrence Technological University\)](#)
- [Robotics Education and Competition \(REC\) Foundation](#)
- [Square One](#)

## Eligibility Requirements

### Applicants

- Participate in at least one in-person competition registered with an approved program provider or participate in the minimum number of competitions as determined by an approved program provider. The minimum number of required competitions must occur during the current season and openly invite teams from other school districts to compete.
- If funding is requested for more than one team for a building, the school district or nonpublic school is required to meet the minimum requirements for team size as determined by the approved program provider.

- Establish a partnership with at least one sponsor<sup>2</sup>. This may include a business entity, higher education institution, technical school, or an individual.
- Provide a local in-kind or cash match from other private or local funds for at least 25% of the total cost of the Robotics Competition Grant award.
- Provide relevant student participant information, as determined by MDE, to program providers.
- Nonpublic school applicants must meet the same eligibility requirements as ISDs and LEAs. Additionally, nonpublic schools must be registered with MDE and adhere to all applicable state reporting requirements for nonpublic schools. To register, use the instructional guide to [Create A New Vendor Self-Service \(VSS\) Account](#).

## Program Providers

- To obtain approval from MDE, program providers must submit registration and fee information to MDE, and pledge to post this information on its website. By January 1, 2026, program providers must submit this information to MDE for publication on MDE's [Robotics Competition Grant webpage](#).
- Make all programs available to students in the state of Michigan regardless of geographical location.
- Organize competitions that are registered and open to teams, ensuring they invite teams from other districts to participate.
- Agree to aggregate relevant individual team competition data received by school districts and nonpublic schools and provide this data to MDE as needed in a manner determined by MDE.
- Program providers shall not work with MDE to set prices or policies for the program.
- Adhere to any additional requirements set forth by MDE, including guidelines for competition advancement and participation.

## Application Requirements

All Robotics Competition Grant applications must be submitted to NexSys by **February 9, 2026, at 12 PM**. Applications may not be reopened past the due date.

## Applicants

- Plan to register for the current robotics competition season with an MDE approved program provider.

---

<sup>2</sup> A sponsor shall not be the approved program provider or an individual that is the school principal, superintendent, or any other school administrator.

- Complete a cumulative spending plan for the requested award amount.
- Agree to establish a partnership with at least one sponsor. This may include a business/nonprofit, a higher education institute, a technical school, or an individual.
- Agree to provide a local in-kind or cash match from other private or local funds for at least 25% of the total award amount requested.
- Provide an official team number for all teams listed on the application.
- Have a robotics competition coach in place for the current season.

## Use of Grant Funds

### Total Funds Available for FY26

- ISDs, LEAs, and PSAs: \$5,000,000
- Nonpubs: \$600,000

### Funding Distribution

Funding shall only be used for:

- **Coach Stipends:** Approved school districts and nonpublic schools may receive up to \$1,500 per building.
- **Support Awards:** Covers event registrations, materials, travel costs, and other expenses associated with the preparation for and attendance at robotics events and competitions.
- **Advancement Awards<sup>3</sup>:** Teams advancing to the next competition level may receive equal awards contingent on funding availability.

### Restrictions

Awarded funds must only be used for each designated team's expenses as written by the applicant in their submitted application. Awarded funds may not be redistributed among other teams or used for other expenses outside of this program.

---

<sup>3</sup> Requesting funding for advancement awards will not be included on the initial Robotics Competition Grant application.

## Assurance of Accuracy

By applying, all applicants pledge that the information provided in their application is accurate to the best of their knowledge. Any attempt to falsify information may result in an applicant’s grant award being withdrawn by MDE.

## FY26 Timeline<sup>4</sup>

Milestone	Date
Application Opens in NexSys	December 10, 2025
RFP and Technical Assistance Resources Made Available	December 10, 2025
Application Closes in NexSys	February 9, 2026 (12 PM)
School Districts and Nonpublic Schools Receive Grant Award Notifications (GANs)	Spring 2026
School Districts and Nonpublic Schools Receive Awards	Spring 2026

## Resources

It is recommended that applicants review all resources provided under the **Important Links** section on the [Robotics Competition Grant webpage](#) prior to submitting their application.

Additional information can be found on the [99h Robotics Competition Grant webpage](#).

For questions relating to the 99h Robotics Competition Grant, please contact [MDE-EdTech@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-EdTech@Michigan.gov).

---

<sup>4</sup> The dates mentioned in this timeline are subject to change. For the most current timeline, please visit the [99h Robotics Competition Grant webpage](#).

## Program Provider Information

**Support Award Reminder: Registration fees fall under the support award.**

Robotics Program Name	Robotics Program Type	Max Coaching Stipend	Max Support Award FY26	Registration Fees FY26
EduEverything	AVR - Rookie	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,500
EduEverything	AVR - Veteran	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$7,500
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST Robotics - Rookie	\$1,500	\$9,000	\$6,300
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST Robotics - Veteran	\$1,500	\$6,300	\$6,300
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST Tech Challenge - Rookie	\$1,500	\$2,200	\$2,185
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST Tech Challenge - Veteran	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,495
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Challenge - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$1,076
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Challenge - Veteran	\$1,500	\$500	\$499
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Explore - Rookie	\$1,500	\$505	\$555
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Explore - Veteran	\$1,500	\$300	\$210
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Discover - Veteran	\$1,500	\$300	\$493
FIRST in Michigan	FIRST LEGO League-Discover - Rookie	\$1,500	\$500	\$238
LTU Robofest	Robofest Game - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,140	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Game - Veteran	\$1,500	\$340	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Exhibition - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,420	\$100

LTU Robofest	Robofest Exhibition - Veteran	\$1,500	\$520	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboParade - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,220	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboParade - Veteran	\$1,500	\$420	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboArts - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,420	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboArts - Veteran	\$1,500	\$520	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboMed - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,420	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest RoboMed - Veteran	\$1,500	\$520	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest BottleSumo Classic/Unlimited - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest BottleSumo Classic/Unlimited - Veteran	\$1,500	\$300	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Unknown Mission Challenge - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Unknown Mission Challenge - Veteran	\$1,500	\$300	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Vision Centric Challenge - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$100
LTU Robofest	Robofest Vision Centric Challenge - Veteran	\$1,500	\$600	\$100
MATE	MATE ROV SCOUT	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$150
MATE	MATE ROV NAVIGATOR	\$1,500	\$2,300	\$300
MATE	MATE ROV RANGER	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$450
Quarkmine	Quarkmine SRL-L1	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,250

Quarkmine	Quarkmine SRL-L2	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$1,500
Quarkmine	Quarkmine SRL-L3	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,750
Quarkmine	Quarkmine ERL	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$750
Quarkmine	Quarkmine ORL	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX IQ Robotics Competition - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,150	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX IQ Robotics Competition - Veteran	\$1,500	\$550	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX V5 Robotics Competition - Rookie	\$1,500	\$2,700	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX V5 Robotics Competition - Veteran	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX AI Robotics Competition - Rookie	\$1,500	\$6,200	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	VEX AI Robotics Competition - Veteran	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	Aerial Drones Competition - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$200
Robotics Education and Competition Foundation (REC)	Aerial Drones Competition - Veteran	\$1,500	\$750	\$200
Square One	Square One Autonomous - Rookie	\$1,500	\$6,000	\$3,000
Square One	Square One Autonomous - Veteran	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$2,000
Square One	Square One Drone - Rookie	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$500
Square One	Square One Drone - Veteran	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$250
Square One	Square One Full Scale - Rookie	\$1,500	\$8,000	\$3,000
Square One	Square One Full Scale - Veteran	\$1,500	\$6,000	\$2,000

Square One	Square One Mini Racing - Rookie	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$3,000
Square One	Square One Mini Racing - Veteran	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$2,000
Square One	Square One V2X - Rookie	\$1,500	\$750	\$350
Square One	Square One V2X - Veteran	\$1,500	\$500	\$250
Square One	Square One Underwater - Rookie	\$1,500	\$4,000	\$1,500
Square One	Square One Underwater - Veteran	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$500