Alabama State Department of Education Alabama
Office of Student Learning

Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative

Alabama Robotics Program Application/Guidelines

FY2022

Application Deadline
September 30, 2021

All applications must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. on this date.
(Submission Guidelines contained herein.)

Alabama State Department of Education
Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
Attention: Jennifer McCrary
3339 Gordon Persons Building
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101
Telephone: 334-694-4727
robotics@amsti.org

Alabama State Department of Education Alabama
Office of Student Learning
Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
FY2022

Grant Proposal Guidelines

Purpose of the Program: The purpose of the Robotics Program is to aid local education agencies (LEAs) in purchasing equipment, training, curriculum, and/or professional development that will directly support robotics education in the school. **Robotics education** is defined as using student-designed, programmable robots (including those built from kits), programming software and computer interfaces as hands-on learning tools to create a learning environment that can enhance collaboration and communication among students, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, and creativity.

Only one grant is available per school. Each LEA can apply to receive funding not to exceed $2,500 per school.

Eligibility: Applicants must be an Alabama public school LEA submitting on behalf of schools with elementary (Grades K-5), middle (Grades 6-8), or high (Grades 9-12) school students.

Application Available/Competition Opens: July 1, 2021

Deadline for Applications: September 30, 2021

Submissions: Applications must be received by September 30, 2021, 5:00 p.m., to be considered for funding. There will be no exceptions to this submission requirement since this is a competitive application process. ***Applications will be submitted electronically*** and must be Superintendent approved in order to be read by the reviewers. Please download and print the application form to secure all necessary signatures before beginning electronic submission.

Award notifications: January 1, 2022

Expenditure Deadline: September 30, 2022

Duration: The grant will need to be implemented during the 2022 fiscal year. ***Funds do not rollover. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2022***. ALSDE staff may also request photos, purchase orders, site visits, or any other documentation to verify successful implementation of funds spent. The LEA must submit an expenditure report for each awarded school by September 30, 2022.

Grant Proposal: Submit a grant proposal that specifies the items needed for the proposed project and the number of teachers and students the project will impact by answering the following questions in the online application. Please attach signature pages and budget electronically in the application form. Submit the application, along with required signature pages and budget, electronically at http://www.amsti.org/robotics.

Each school application must include:

1. *Impact*: List the number of teachers and students who will be directly impacted by the grant.

2. *Proposed Budget*: Indicate the total amount of grant funds requested by the school. Provide a line item budget for the proposed work using the budget spreadsheet section of the application. Maximum allowed request is $2,500. The budget will be submitted electronically using the Budget Template available at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sLa99P_aNSkElt-1VzwHrO-QsYNYycg_N7PkMLC_wMw/copy.

3. *Signatures*: Application *Cover Page* **must include** the signature of the Project Manager and Superintendent/Authorized Official. Application *Assurances Page* **must be signed** by LEA Superintendent, LEA Technology Coordinator, and Chief Financial Officer.

The following resources may be used to assist eligible LEAs in submitting their electronic application:
- 2018 Alabama Course of Study for Digital Literacy and Computer Science
- Current district and school technology plans
- Alabama Continuous Improvement Plan(s) (ACIPs)

Allowable Uses of Funds: The Robotics Program grant funds may be used to purchase items for the following:
- Robotics kits (Kits that allow/require students to design and build a robotic device.)
- Robotics programming software
- Robotics competition equipment (Accessories used to practice specific tasks or challenges.)
- Non-traditional computing devices for the purpose of programming/running robots (Non-exhaustive list of examples: Microbit, Arduino, Raspberry Pi).
- Specialized tools needed to design, create, build or repair student-designed robots.

Non-allowable Uses of Funds:

● Traditional computing devices (Laptop/desktop computers, Tablets, Smartphones), even if planned use is exclusively robotics.

● Competition entrance fees

● Costs associated with hosting a competition (awards, etc.)

● Travel

● Clothing

● Food/Drinks

Selection Process and Criteria Criteria for selection will include the following:

● The extent to which the proposed use of funds will be used to develop or enhance robotics education in elementary, middle, and/or high school.

● The number of students and teachers directly impacted by the proposed activities.

● The extent to which the application demonstrates alignment to the 2018 Alabama Course of Study for Digital Literacy and Computer Science.

Reviewing Applications: After all of the proposals have been received, each application will be stripped of all identifiable information. Each application will be read and scored, using a rubric, by three different members of the review panel. After each application has been read and scored by the review panel members, the proposals will be ranked from highest to lowest according to their scores. Additionally, each reviewer will indicate on his/her review form if the funding of the proposal is recommended. Only proposals that are recommended by two or more reviewers will be considered.

The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative review panel will submit recommendations for awards to the State Superintendent of Education. The final decision to award a subgrant rests solely with the ALSDE.