Alabama State Department of Education Alabama
Office of Student Learning

Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative

Alabama Robotics Program Application Guidelines

FY2023

Application Deadline
September 30, 2022,

*All applications must be submitted electronically via DocuSign using
the link provided only by 5 p.m. on this date.
(Submission Guidelines contained herein.)*

Alabama State Department of Education
Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
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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 $3,500 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, 2022

Deadline for Applications: September 30, 2022

Submissions: Applications must be received by September 30, 2022, 5:00 p.m., to be considered for funding. No exceptions to this submission requirement will be allowed since this is a competitive application process. *Applications must be submitted electronically via DocuSign using the link available at* www.amsti.org/robotics and must be Superintendent approved and filled out in its entirety in order to be read by the reviewers. You may download and print the sample application form to see what is required, **but please note that this grant must be submitted using electronic submission via DocuSign only**.

Award notifications: ALSDE will follow the guidance in the ETF

Expenditure Deadline: September 30, 2023

Duration: The grant will need to be implemented during the 2022 fiscal year. ***Funds do not roll over. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2023***. ALSDE staff may also request photos, purchase orders, site visits, or other documentation to verify the successful implementation of funds spent. The LEA must submit an expenditure report for each awarded school by September 30, 2023.

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. Electronically submit the application and the required signature pages and budget via DocuSign at http://www.amsti.org/robotics.

Each school application must include:
1. *Impact*: List the number of teachers and students who the grant will directly impact.

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. The maximum allowed request is $3,500. The budget will be submitted electronically using the Budget Template provided via DocuSign.

3. *Signatures*: The application *Cover Page* **must include** the electronic signatures of the Project Manager and Superintendent/Authorized Official. Application *Assurances Page* **must be electronically 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
- General use storage or tools
- Professional Development in excess of 10% of grant total

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.