

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

Alabama Robotics Program Application/Guidelines

FY2021



Application Deadline
August 31, 2020

*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
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Alabama State Department of Education Alabama
Robotics Grant Program
Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative
FY2021



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 \$1,500 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 8, 2020

Deadline for Applications: August 31, 2020

Submissions:

Applications must be received by August 31, 2020, 5 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: November 1, 2020

Expenditure Deadline: September 30, 2021

Duration:

The grant will need to be implemented during the 2020-21 fiscal year. ***Funds do not rollover. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2021.*** ALSDE staff may also request photos, purchases orders, sign-in sheet, site visits, or any other documentation to verify successful implementation of funds spent. The LEA must submit an evaluation/expenditure report for each awarded school by September 30, 2021.



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Grant Proposal:

Submit a grant proposal that describes the proposed project by answering the following questions in the online application. Please attach signature pages and budget electronically in the application form. **Do not include identifiable information** in the narrative section of the proposal (e.g., do not use school/district/teacher names). Submit the application, along with required signature pages and budget, electronically at <http://www.amsti.org/robotics>.

Each school application narrative must include:

1. *Summary:* Provide a summary of your proposed project. Include a description of the project design. List the participating grades, subject areas, and number of participating teachers and students directly impacted.
2. *Activities:* How, when, and where will the funds be used. Thoroughly describe the activities in which you and your students will engage to reach your stated goals. In this description: (a) address how the activities will engage students in robotics education (as described above); (b) detail the specific kits, tools and technologies to be used and (c) describe professional development activities to support the project.



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Budget Detail:

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 \$1,500.

The budget will be submitted electronically using the Budget Template available at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14Gzmb2DLh-Yj2FMnVDkq1J2Y_XkVd_2OnHIClqLky2I/edit?usp=sharing.

Allowable Uses of Funds:

The Robotics Program grant funds may be used to purchase items for the following:

- Professional Development (minimum 5% of request required*) for educators.
- 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.

*Note: The required 5% professional development expenditure may be waived if acceptable professional development activities that can be obtained for free/reduced cost during the grant period are detailed in the application and documented in final report.

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
- Food/Drinks



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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 the elementary, middle, and/or high school.
- The number of students and teachers directly impacted by the proposed activities.
- The extent to which the proposed use of funds stimulates or supplements additional school or district support for the sustainability of robotics education programs.

Reviewing Applications:

After all 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 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.