



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

K-12 Robotics Competition Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The K-12 Robotics Competition Grant supports the development and sustainability of robotics competition teams in eligible schools. This resource is provided to assist applicants in considering the scope and development of proposed grant activities. More information on the K-12 Robotics Competition Grant can be found [here](#), and applications may be submitted [here](#) by Friday, September 29.

Number	Question	Answer
1	Are non-public schools accredited as freeway schools under Indiana Code (IC) 20-26-15-5 eligible for this grant opportunity?	No. A freeway school is a third-party accredited school and does not meet eligibility requirements. Eligible schools defined in IC 20-20-45.5 must be state accredited to be eligible for this opportunity.
2	The grant memo outlines three specific robotics competition partner organizations. Are school corporations able to partner with other organizations such as Vex Robotics or Robokind?	This grant funds robotics competition teams and is subject to requirements pursuant to IC 20-20-45.5 . In alignment with the grant guidelines , proposals should support teams that will participate in robotics competitions sponsored by the three state-approved robotics competition providers listed in Option 1. Applicants may also select Option 2, completing the Additional Competition Provider Documentation Template and proposing an alternative robotics competition provider as part of the grant application.
3	Is there a specific window during which reimbursements will be made?	Reimbursement requests for approved expenditures incurred between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 may be submitted once the grantee receives notice of a fully executed grant agreement. The deadline for final submission of reimbursements for expenses incurred within the grant cycle is August 29, 2024.
4	Can applicants demonstrate evidence of matching funds from other state grants?	As stated in IC 20-20-45.5 <i>Applicants must provide evidence of local in-kind or cash contribution from other private or local funds in an amount equal to at least 25% of the amount of the awarded grant.</i> State-funded grants do not qualify as private or local funds.
5	Pursuant to the <i>Matching Funds</i> document, what is the time frame for in-kind or cash matching donations that should/shouldn't be included?	Eligible schools may report in-kind and cash matching funds donations received within the grant cycle between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Matching funds or in-kind donations received prior to July 1, 2023 for the purposes of implementing and sustaining eligible teams as described in the K-12 Robotics Competition Grant may not be included to meet the 25% matching funds requirement.



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6	Our corporation set aside dollars from our school corporation's education fund. Can we count the education fund dollars toward our local in-kind or cash matching donations?	<p>As stated in IC 20-20-45.5:</p> <p><i>Applicants must provide evidence of local in-kind or cash contribution from other private or local funds in an amount equal to at least 25% of the amount of the awarded grant.</i></p> <p>Funds from the corporation's education general fund are not considered other private or local funds.</p>
7	Is June 30, 2024 the day all grant funds must be expended?	<p>Yes. All approved expenditures must be incurred between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Once the grant agreement is fully executed, requests for reimbursement may be submitted to IDOE. The deadline for final submission of reimbursements for expenses incurred within the grant cycle is August 29, 2024.</p>
8.	Can school fundraiser money (e.g., sale of trash bags, profits from concession stands) be used for matching funds?	<p>Yes. School fundraisers are considered local funds and can be used to provide evidence of local in-kind or cash contributions from other private or local funds in an amount equal to at least 25% of the amount requested in the grant budget.</p>
9.	Does the K-12 Robotics Competition Grant require a corporation to have a robotics competition team at each level, K-5, 6-8, 9-12?	<p>No. While grant awards must maximize the number of high school teams, a grant proposal can request funding to support teams at any level (e.g., elementary only, mixture of elementary or middle level teams, high school only).</p>
10.	Our corporation was planning to apply for this grant to procure funds for travel and entry fees to Worlds competitions. Are these registration expenses ineligible for the current grant application?	<p>Yes, registration for both state and world competitions are ineligible expenditures for this grant. Include registration fees for local competitions only. IDOE will provide future opportunities for funding teams advancing to state, world, and international competitions to the extent possible based on remaining state funds allocated for robotics competitions.</p>
11.	Does this grant still apply to our elementary schools who host their own competitions?	<p>Yes. The K-12 Robotics Competition Grant provides opportunities to fund new and existing robotics competition teams. Event registration is one of the allowable costs in the grant guidelines. If your teams are exempt from registration fees at events hosted by your school, then funding should not be proposed in the <i>Event Registration</i> budget category.</p>
12.	Does the term <i>team</i> within the Budget Narrative refer to maximum awards for each level of team or all	<p>The maximum award in the grant guidelines is for individual teams. Each team at each level is eligible to receive the maximum award amount up to the \$50,000 total award for the application.</p>



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	teams within the corporation?	
13.	Would school bus transportation be an eligible expense for the purposes of the grant?	Yes. Transportation costs related to using a school bus to transport eligible teams for local robotics competitions is allowable. Please include relevant information from your local travel guidelines (i.e., cost/mile and hourly rate for the bus driver) in the budget template.
14.	If I start a VEX team at the high school level, can we expend grant funds on \$4,500 for Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation and \$8,000 for TechPoint Foundation for Youth for the same team?	No. Based on information provided by robotics competition providers through a formal, public request for information (RFI) process, REC and TechPoint Foundation for Youth support different types of VEX competitions at the high school level. Each eligible high school team commits to participate in a robotics competition sponsored by only one of the providers based on the proposed competition activities for the high school team.
15.	Could I start a FIRST robotics team through FIRST Indiana Robotics and a separate VEX team through the REC Foundation and receive funding for both teams?	Yes. If both eligible teams are from eligible schools and the grant narrative supports the decision to have two different competition providers, this is allowable. In this instance, each high school team will commit to creating an original, iteratively-designed robot and compete in respective competitions described in the grant narrative and supported by the requested budget.

Please contact TLgrants@doe.in.gov with any additional questions.