

# CODE

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

*Representing:*  
*Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)*  
*Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)*  
*Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)*

TO: Ontario Directors of Education

FROM: Frank Kelly  
Executive Director  
CODE

DATE: September 23, 2015

RE: Purchase of Robotic Kits

On June 15, I wrote to you with details about the CODE Robotics Project. As you know, Ontario schools and boards have recognized that connecting students with the stimulating possibilities presented through robotics and associated activities leads to opportunities for the development of interactive, collaborative, entrepreneurial and problem-solving skills.

The first phase of the purchasing process began with the Summer Learning Programs. Today I am pleased to outline the process for school boards to purchase robotic kits from a list of manufacturers included with this memorandum.

## Expectations for Use of Robotic Kits

The intent of this one-time funding is to provide boards with an opportunity to purchase robotic kits for use with elementary school students. It is expected that the kits will be used to support student instruction and teacher practice through classroom use and increased teacher capacity. Further, boards are asked to place the robotic kits in schools that represent communities with more challenging socio-economic circumstances and needs. Robotic kits could also be targeted towards specific groups of learners consistent with priorities outlined in your school and board improvement plans.

## Timelines

Attached to this memorandum is an order form. Boards are requested to complete this form in order to purchase their robotic kits according to their level of funding. Orders should be emailed to Janette Jensen [janette@opsoa.org](mailto:janette@opsoa.org) at the CODE office by **October 30, 2015**. It is anticipated that orders will be processed promptly, with boards receiving their selected resources by November 30, 2015.

## Funding

Each school board and school authority will receive funding for robotic kits. Please note that the attached order form indicates the funding allocation for your board. This allocation includes a base sum plus additional funds calculated using enrollment data. Boards are requested to purchase according to the following percentages: 20% of the funding allocation for the purchase of robotic kits for primary students

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and the remaining 80% of the allocation for the purchase of kits to support students in junior and intermediate grades.

## Order Form

Please note the information required on the attached order form.

- Board information
- Name of Board Contact, including email address, telephone number and alternate contact
- Selection of Robotic Kits to be purchased
- Delivery details (location and contact person)

**Important note: the kits will be delivered to only one location in each board. It is the board's responsibility to then distribute kits to the schools they select.**

Also attached to this memorandum is a description of the products available for purchase, as determined through consultation with the CODE Robotics Committee. This team includes educators experienced in the use of robotics as a support for student learning.

The following products are available to be selected for purchase (please also refer to the CODE Robotics Order Form):

VEX IQ Super Kit  
VEX IQ Starter Kit with Controller  
VEX IQ Classroom Bundle  
VEX IQ Full Field  
VEX EDR Classroom & Competition Super Kit  
VEX EDR Mechatronics Kit  
VEX EDR Dual Controller Kit  
VEX EDR Swept Away Classroom Bundle  
LEGO Education WeDo Construction Set  
LEGO Education WeDo Software & Activity Pack  
LEGO Education WeDo Site License (1 per location)  
LEGO Education EV3 Core Set with Charger  
LEGO Education EV3 Software and Site License  
fischertechnik Introduction to STEM 1 set  
Tetrix Prime Starter Set

Please refer to the product descriptions and prices provided by the vendors (descriptions of products and associated services have been prepared by the three companies noted above without input or approval from CODE). Through this provincial group purchase, a reduction in price has been negotiated. Note there is no HST in the product price -- CODE will pay the HST directly to the three companies.

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In some instances, the vendors are offering the discounted price to school boards should they wish to directly submit an additional order themselves. Please review the information provided by the three companies regarding board purchases.

## Reporting Requirements

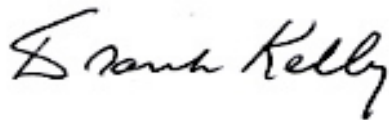
By the end of January 2016, boards will need to report on the distribution and location of robotic kits. A one-page reporting template will be available for boards to complete online by going to [www.ontariosummerlearning.org](http://www.ontariosummerlearning.org) and accessing the section on Robotics. In May 2016, boards will be asked to again visit the Ontario Summer Learning website and complete a brief summary of how the robotic kits were used, and the impact they had on classroom instruction and student learning.

Please note: the Ontario Summer Learning website ([www.ontariosummerlearning.org](http://www.ontariosummerlearning.org)) is available in order to provide updates on the CODE robotics project and will include a message board where comments and ideas from colleagues can be posted.

We anticipate that acquiring these materials will stimulate new and inventive, curriculum-linked learning opportunities in the areas of Science, Technology, and Mathematics, with a special focus on robotics, mathematics and coding. Through the use of Robotics, many schools are engaging their students in the development of interactive, collaborative, entrepreneurial and problem-solving skills. Should you wish additional information, please contact the CODE office at 905-845-4254.

Our hope is that this one-time funding for the robotic kits will provide unique and exhilarating learning opportunities for your pupils.

Regards,



Frank Kelly  
Executive Director  
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