



Earning High School Credit through FIRST Robotics

KILLER BEES 33

Explanation

Student can earn elective graduation credit for participation on a FIRST Robotics Team.

Goal: Make people more aware that it is better to measure by proficiency rather than attendance hours. Learning also becomes personalized.

Michigan Department of Education: “Be willing to offer elective high school credits for students who have successfully logged 60 hours, provided the team attends a minimum of two FIRST in Michigan district competitions.”

How does this work for a school?

FRC team mentors track student attendance at meetings and events.

Once a student reaches the requirements (60 hours + 2 events), the mentors notify the counselors the student has met the minimum requirement.

Counselors update the student's transcript with elective credit, similar to how transfer credits or other out-of-school credit is awarded.

Why Students Need This

FIRST of all, who needs it?

Students who struggle in school

- Kids with home problems (Parents fighting, can't focus; divorce, family violence)
- Students who excel in one subject, and flop in another.
- Kids who just want to learn.
- Students who do not want to retake a class or take lower classes as an upperclassman.

What does it give?

Experiences on FRC Teams can include:

- Business and Communication (Sponsor presentations, make videos)
- STEM Concepts
- Social Skills (Teamwork, communication with adults)
- Mechanical work (Workshop w/ variety of machines and tools)
- Problem Solving (Figure out what works and what doesn't)
- 21st Century Skills (such as Critical thinking • Communication Collaboration • Creativity)
- Team Building
- Using Time Productively

What Do the Killer Bees Have To Do With It?

We think this is a great way for FIRST students to be recognized for their work outside of the classroom on concepts taught in classrooms.

Going beyond the elective credit, we run a digital badging system for all Michigan teams available at www.firstbadges.com

Digital Badges are:

- Constructed to include the academic standards and 21st century skills
- Included with other working experiences
- Used on college applications, scholarships and job applications

Important References

[MDE Memo February 2017](#) – this official memorandum from the Michigan Department of Education allows schools to grant credit. A copy of the memorandum is included in this document.

For more information, please contact the Killer Bees at www.killerbees33.com