

Competition Division Structure

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Incentivizing School-Based Organizations

Rationale

- Account for 75%+ of our teams in the United States
- RECF was built on school-based organizations
- Our most sustainable organization type
- Real cost of losing school-based organizations



A young person with curly hair is focused on working on a VEX robot. The robot is a complex assembly of metal beams, gears, and sensors. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and equipment, suggesting a workshop or competition environment. The image has a blue and purple color overlay.

Incentivizing School-Based Organizations

- School-based organizations/districts run the majority of the events, including Event Region Championships, but their own teams do not benefit
 - School districts in particular are starting to ask “*why are we doing most of the work hosting events for non-district teams to qualify for Event Region Championships? VEX Robotics World Championships?*”
 - Growing disparity between the percentages of school-based organizations in a region and World Championship qualifications

School-Based Event Type

- New event class that is open for school-based organizations only
- Must host an open event (available to all teams) before hosting up to two (2) School-Based events.
- For VEX IQ Robotics Competition and VEX V5 Robotics Competition programs





Conference Model Pilot

What is a Conference?

- A large school district with many schools that have teams.
- A group of school districts or school-based organizations.
- A group of schools that regularly compete together.
- A large school district, along with neighboring school-based teams.

Incentives

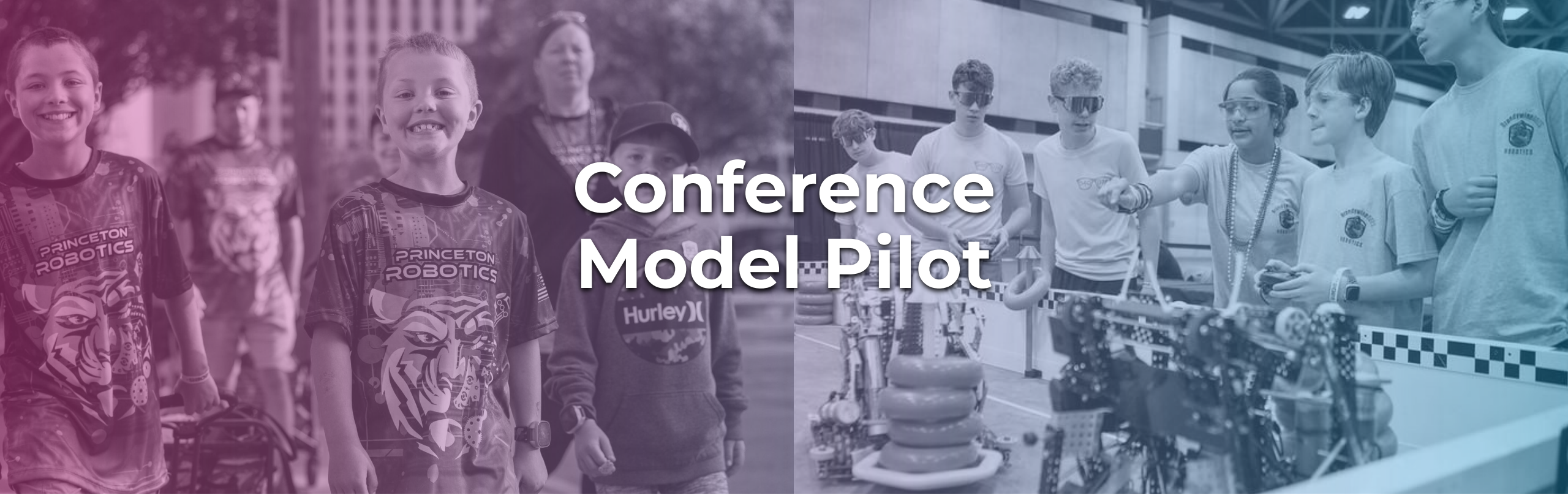
- Each team may compete in both a Conference Championship and an Event Region Championship if they qualify for both.
- When an Event Region is awarded spots to the VEX Robotics World Championship, those will be split between the Conference Championship and the Event Region Championship.



Conference Model Pilot

Requirements for 2025-2026 pilot:

- The pilot will be for VEX IQ Robotics Competition teams only
- A Conference should consist of at least 40 Elementary and/or 40 Middle School teams
 - Conferences with fewer teams will be considered if they can demonstrate expected growth as a result of being a Conference
- Support from school or district administration
- Form a Conference Advisory Board with one member serving as the interface with the Regional Support Manager
- Be willing to have regular meetings during the season and a post-season meeting with the REC Foundation to provide feedback on the pilot



Conference Model Pilot

Requirements for 2025-2026 pilot:

- Create a qualification structure that qualifies teams for the Conference Championship
 - Willingness to create and host events specifically for Conference teams and a separate Conference Championship event
 - Separate Conference Tournaments that qualify for a Conference Championship, which qualify for the VEX Robotics World Championship
- All organizations within a Conference will, at a minimum, keep the same team counts as they had in the 2024-2025 season



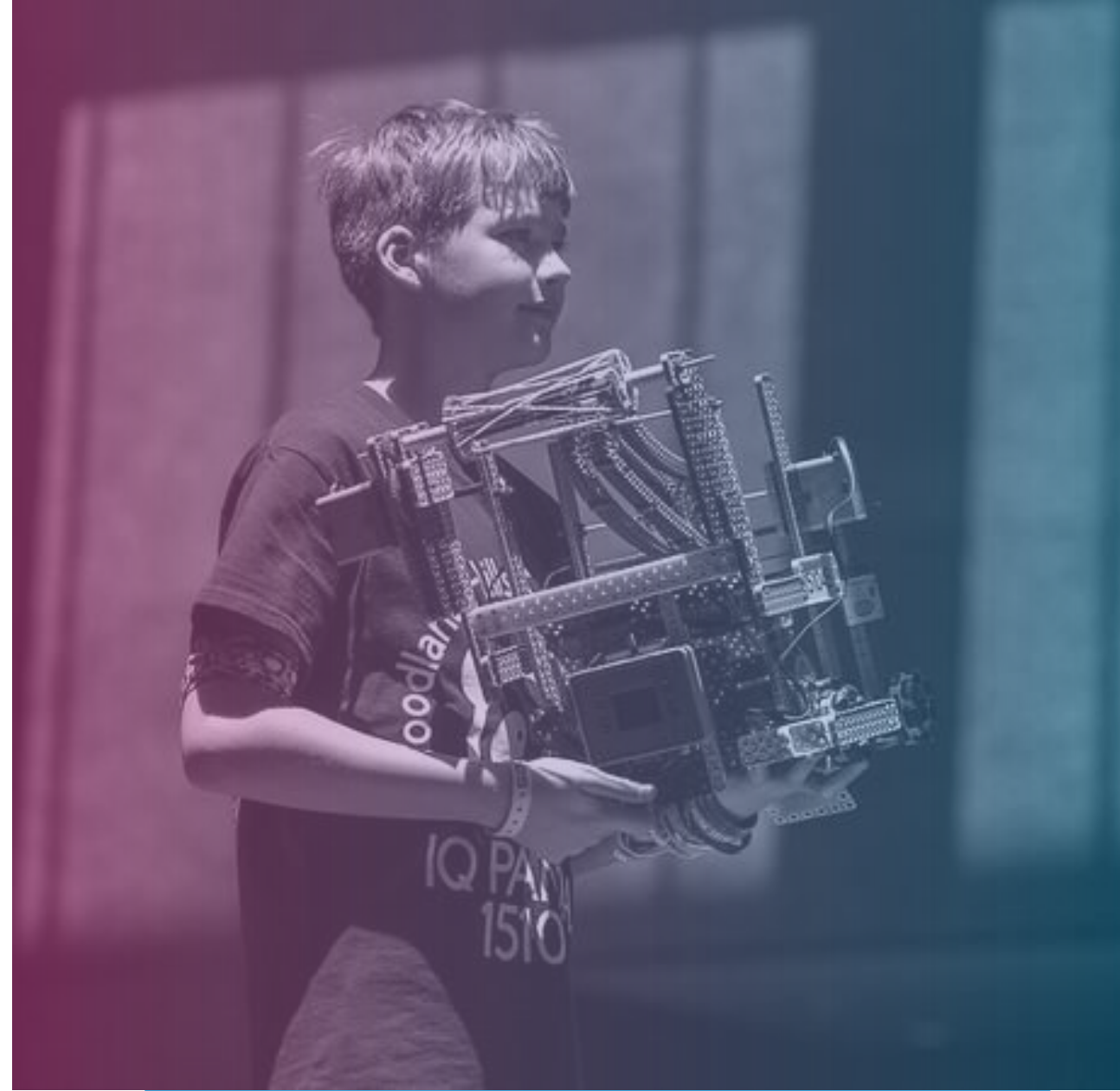
Conference Model Pilot

Selected Pilots:

- Los Angeles Unified School District, California
- Cabarrus County School District, North Carolina
- Forsyth County School District (and neighboring counties), Georgia
- Dallas Independent School District, Texas

Other Ideas Considered

- **Self Declaration Structure**
 - Pros: You choose which group to be in.
 - Cons: Are there enough events in a region for one specific group?
 - Considerations: One division would have to end at ERCs and not qualify for Worlds.
- **Removing Age Groups**
 - VEX IQ is 1 group ES/MS
 - VEX V5 is 1 group MS/HS



FAQ

- Q: How can my region be a part of the conference system?
- Q: How will you determine how many World Championship Qualification spots the Conference Championship will get?
- Q: Does the same Event Partner that runs the ERC , run the Conference Championship?
- Q: How many teams will compete at the Conference Championship vs. the Regional Championship
- Q: Can an Event Partner inside the Conference host an open event ?
- Q: Who is responsible for the Conference System? is it the school district, or an independent Event Partner?
- Q: Will the Conference system move over to V5RC eventually?
- Q: Can teams or schools opt out of the conference system?



Discuss/Share

- **Discuss in small groups:**
 - Thoughts on the previously mentioned plans
 - Could these plans work in your region
 - Future ideas

Contact

We are here for you

Event Partners and Coaches are the core of our Programs here at the REC Foundation. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for all of your support.

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[Resources](#)



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