



## BUDGET GUIDANCE FOR TEAMS

Thanks for participating in the Invent the Future Challenge! Here are some answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the budget for your prototypes.

### How much can each team spend?

Each team of 3-6 students may spend up to \$60 building their prototype. All materials used in the final prototypes must be included in this total.

### Can a team incorporate recycled or used items?

Yes! Teams are encouraged to use recycled and/or used items. When calculating these into your budget, estimate how much they would cost if bought used. For example, if a team uses an old fish tank, they might estimate that this would cost \$5 at a yard sale.

### What if a team is borrowing items from school?

Items borrowed from school should be factored into the budget. For example, if using a school's Micro:bit, which costs \$17, a team should factor \$17 into their total budget.

### Do teams need to prepare a budget justification?

While it is not required, we recommend that teams bring a budget justification similar to the examples shown below. If their budget is in question, it will be helpful for judges to see a written list of materials and associated costs.

### Will teams be reimbursed for their costs?

Yes! MCPS teachers may apply for reimbursement for \$30 per team through MCPS. See the following page of this document for more information.

EXAMPLE 1

Micro:bit	\$17
Distance sensor	\$5
Recycled cardboard	free
Recycled plastic bottle	free
Hot glue gun and glue	\$5
Paint	\$10
TOTAL:	\$37

EXAMPLE 2

PVC pipe & connectors	\$15
Rubber hoses	\$5
Soil	\$5
Small plants	\$6
Plastic tray	\$3
Small used fishtank	\$5
TOTAL:	\$39